Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIV, Issue No. 66 | THURSDAY APRIL 3, 2014 | www.saipantribune.com | 75¢

Suspended lawyer found guilty of criminal contempt. PAGE 2
Inos restores CUC board's full power after 9 years. PAGE 5

New petition out to put Article 12 on the ballot

» Group eyes 8,000 signatures to put question before November voters

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A non-profit group launched yesterday a signature drive to place on the ballot a question on Article 12, the NMI Constitution's provision allowing only persons of Northern Marianas descent to own land in the CNMI.

See PETITION on Page 4

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero shares with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday many of DPS' ongoing programs to deter and address crimes in the CNMI, along with plans to establish a drug court and rehabilitation center as part of the department's "war against the drug ice." Deleon Guerrero was among the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's guest speakers at its general membership meeting at Saipan World Resort in Susupe yesterday.

Inos submits $134M budget

» Proposed FY 2015 budget highest in 5 years
» Spending plan covers more items, cuts others

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos sent to the Legislature his proposed fiscal year 2015 budget of more than $134.33 million—the highest in five years—at around 8:30pm on Tuesday, less than four hours before the deadline. Despite a $10.9 million increase from the 2014 budget, the new spending plan covers more obligations but continues to curtail some costs.

The governor also urged the Legislature to introduce more revenue-generating bills, just days after signing into law a measure that allows

See BUDGET on Page 4

CPUC postpones decision on standby charge

» HANMI, SFMA amenable to new tariff charges

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission calendared for next month's public hearing its decision on the standby charge being proposed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for large commercial customers that primarily use their own generators for their daily operations.

In a public hearing yesterday at the Commonwealth Development Authority's office in Oleai, CPUC chair Joseph Guerrero said the controversial standby charge still needs to be reviewed before the regulatory body makes its decision.

Guerrero said the proposal went through careful consideration and had been put through five provision orders that were adopted yesterday morning until the next public hearing on May 22, 2014

Meanwhile, the Hotel Association of the

See CPUC on Page 4

Dynasty owner confirms likely stop to Tinian expansion plans

» Says new casino law seems 'drafted' for one particular investor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino's new owner, Hong Kong-based Mega Stars Overseas Ltd., confirmed Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz's fear that it may stop additional planned investments in the CNMI over the newly enacted law allowing casino gaming on Saipan and its subsequent amendment.

Mega Stars did not say in a statement whether it is applying for an exclusive casino license on Saipan, days after Gov. Eloy S. Inos said he expects them to be one of the applicants.

What was clear is the casino law's impact on Mega Stars' plans for additional

See DYNASTY on Page 4

GOT A NEWS TIP?
TEL: 235-6397
235-2440
FAX: 235-3740
EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

272 DAYS
BEFORE THE CW PROGRAM EXPIRES ON DEC. 31, 2014

OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Do you know that the Call-A-Ride Service is now open to the general public?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

WORLD

A powerful magnitude-8.2 earthquake hits northern Chile.

➤ PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE

In its final episode, the CBS comedy "How I Met Your Mother" finally reveals the big secret.

➤ PAGE 20

IT&E
Life in Motion

PICKS OF THE WEEK
LG AXIS AS470 $45* FREE! SAMSUNG U450
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net
SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS *Terms and conditions apply

Local

Suspended lawyer found guilty of criminal contempt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has found suspended lawyer Antonio M. Atalig guilty of criminal contempt for not complying with the court's order requiring him to begin serving his sentence in a domestic violence case by Feb. 15, 2014.

"I do not find Atalig's testimony credible at all," Wiseman said at yesterday's hearing.

He described Atalig's testimony as "highly incredible."

Atalig will be sentenced on April 9 at 1:30pm.

Attorney Robert H. Myers, counsel for the 57-year-old Atalig, told *Saipan Tribune* after the hearing that he and Atalig will discuss their options.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas, who represented the government, said the offense carries a maximum prison term of six months.

Atalig pleaded guilty last year to assault and battery, two counts of disturbing the peace, and criminal contempt. Wiseman sentenced him to eight months in prison but granted Atalig's request to delay reporting to the Department of Corrections because he needed to settle many obligations first.

Wiseman orally granted Atalig's request, ordering him to report to DOC on or before Feb. 15, 2014. Atalig submitted a proposed order to start serving his sentence on Feb. 15, 2015. Wiseman subsequently signed the order but later corrected the year to 2014.

On Feb. 25, 2014, Myers, on behalf of Atalig, asked Wiseman to extend once more the time for Atalig to serve his sentence, claiming, among other things, that the typographical error was due to a recording error from his handwritten notes to typewritten form. Wiseman rejected the request.

Wiseman then issued an arrest warrant for Atalig after learning that he did not report to DOC on Feb. 15. Police, court marshals, and probation officers failed to find the defendant.

On March 7, Atalig surrendered to DOC to begin serving his eight-month prison term.

Wiseman then issued an order to show cause, directing Atalig to explain why he should not be held in contempt.

At yesterday's hearing, a probation officer testified that after receiving a copy of the arrest warrant on Feb. 28, they searched for Atalig between four to five days but could not locate him.

A court staff also testified that she called Atalig and informed him about the order that he should turn in to DOC on Feb. 15, 2014.

Atalig testified that he prepared a handwritten order for his extension and asked someone to type it because he had no computer at that time. Atalig said he did not notice that the reporting date was written Feb. 15, 2015.

"I did not notice it. It was not intentional," he said.

Atalig said he later realized upon seeing the proposed order that Wiseman signed that it was 2015.

"When I looked at it, boy, I have enough time!" he said, drawing laughs from some people in the courtroom.

Atalig admitted that he received a call from a court staff, but he misunderstood it as relating to a child support case.

As to the question why he reported to DOC only on March 7, Atalig said it was only at DOC when he learned that there was an arrest warrant for him.

Atalig said he reported to DOC on March 7 after someone informed him a day earlier that the police were looking for him.

Atalig said he was processing some paperwork, going back and forth to and from As Lito and Capital Hill during that period.

In his ruling, Wiseman said that before being suspended from practice of law, Atalig had 25 years of law practice experience. Wiseman said that no judge would grant one year to defer an order for a convicted person to report to Corrections. He said Atalig did nothing but delay the judicial process.

In May 2012, Wiseman suspended Atalig and Reynaldo O. Yana from practicing law in the CNMI for refusing to return $1.1 million in attorneys' fees that the two obtained from the Angel Malite estate.

Bordallo visits Guam Midshipmen

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) visits Guam Midshipmen currently studying at the U.S. Naval Academy. Top row, from left: MIDN Kyle Combado, MIDN Andrew Junio, MIDN Samuel Wolborsky, MIDN Christopher Robinson; Bottom row from left: MIDN Jacqueline Rine, MIDN Riacca Slater, Bordallo, MIDN Karen Vargas, and Capt. William Byrne, Jr. Not in picture is Benjamin Unpingco.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) recently visited Midshipmen from Guam who are enrolled at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Eight Midshipmen from Guam are currently attending the USNA in preparation for their service in the U.S. Navy or the U.S. Marine Corps. Bordallo met with Vice Admiral Michael H. Miller, the Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy, prior to joining Capt. William D. Byrne, Jr., the commandant of Midshipmen, and Guam's Midshipmen for lunch in King Hall.

"I enjoyed visiting our Midshipmen from Guam who are attending school at the Naval Academy," said Bordallo. "These young men and women are working hard as they prepare for their service as officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. I am proud of their accomplishments, and I encouraged them to continue their outstanding work. The Naval Academy provides an outstanding college education, and I hope that other young men and women from Guam will consider it as an avenue toward military service. I look forward to learning of their graduation from the Naval Academy in the years ahead and hearing about their accomplishments in their service to our country."

Judge OKs Fund lawyers $37K billing for Sept. 2013

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood has approved for payment $37,111.81 in expenses and fees of the NMI Retirement Fund's former trustee *ad litem* and two Fund lawyers for September 2013.

In an order on Tuesday, Tydingco-Gatewood approved the request of former trustee *ad litem* Civille & Tang law firm for payment of $15,292.50 in professional services and $1,452.95 in expenses, for a total of $16,745.45.

The judge also approved Fund counsel Daniel J. Berman's request for payment of $6,000 in professional fee.

For the Fund's other counsel, Braddock J. Huesman, Tydingco-Gatewood approved the lawyer's request for payment of $14,130 in professional services and $236.36 in expenses, for a total of $14,366.36.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she has reviewed the invoices and finds the requests for compensation and reimbursements to be reasonable.

During this period, the judge noted, the trustee *ad litem* and its attorneys endeavored to wrap up their work and transition the NMI Retirement Fund to the Settlement Fund.

"The court appreciates the professionalism and diligence demonstrated by the trustee *ad litem* and its team during the appointment term," the judge said.

The amounts, she added, shall be paid to the former trustee *ad litem* and its attorneys from the money that was transferred from the Fund's operations budget into the trustee a*d litem*'s client trust account.

For August 2013, the judge approved for payment $116,298.76 in expenses and fees of the former trustee *ad litem*, Berman, and Huesman.

Civille & Tang law firm and its representative, Joseph Razzano, were discharged as trustee *ad litem* following the Sept. 30, 2013, court approval of the global settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action.

"A Tradition of Excellence!"

Marianas Eye Institute proudly welcome renowned eye surgeon, Dr. Dennis Williams, who has moved to Saipan to serve you and your families alongside Dr. Robertson. The tradition of excellence continues!

- Listed in "Best Doctors in America"
- Board Certified Ophthalmologist

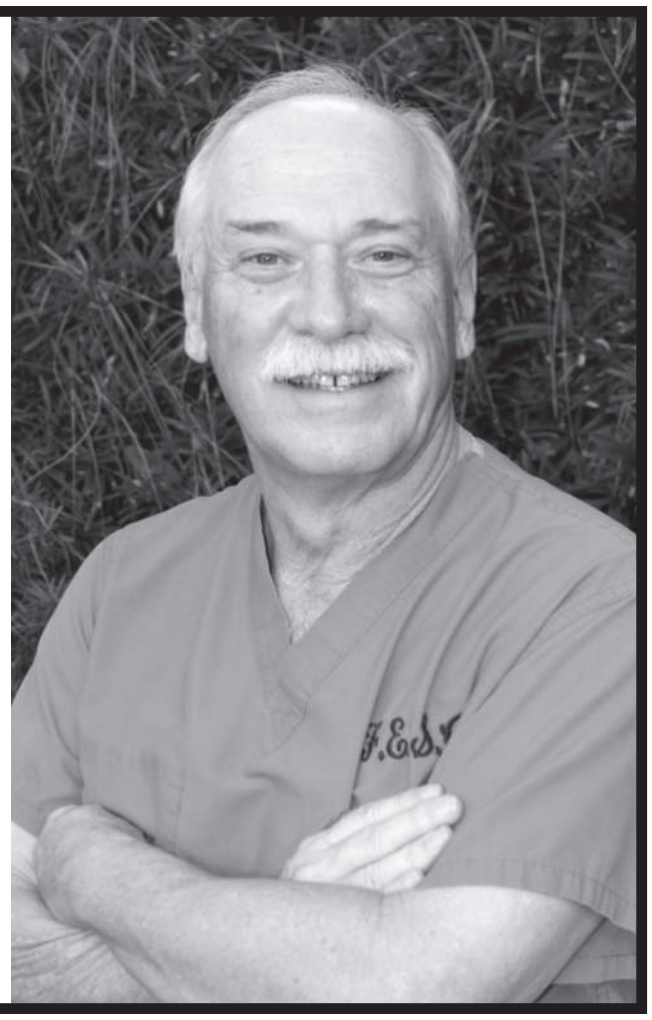
Prior Experience:

- Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, USF
- Director of Corneal Transplant and Refractive Surgery St. Luke's Cataract and Laser Institute, Florida
- Board of Directors, American Board of Eye Surgery
- President, Cataract Teaching Foundation
- Instructor, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

We welcome Aetna, Self-pay, Staywell, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and more!

Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

235-9090
Walk-in's welcome
Beach Road Garapan.



Ex-CUC chair's 4th attempt to suspend imposition of sentence denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has denied former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Francisco Q. Guerrero's second motion to reconsider its denial of his request to suspend the imposition of his sentence pending resolution of his appeal over his conviction.

Guerrero lacks a compelling reason to relitigate the motion for stay, states the high court order penned by Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and concurred by Associate Justice John A. Manglona and Justice Pro Tem Timothy H. Bellas.

Last July, a Superior Court jury acquitted the 63-year-old Guerrero of two counts of a sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, but Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, who presided over the trial, found him guilty of 11 charges: three counts of assault and battery, five counts of disturbing the peace, two counts of indecent exposure in the second degree, and sexual abuse of a minor in the fourth degree.

Wiseman sentenced Guerrero to six years in prison, which he will serve without the possibility of parole.

Guerrero then asked the Superior Court to suspend his sentence because the government did not turn over alleged Brady material that the Attorney General Investigation Unit's report prepared at or around the time of Guerrero's arrest. Wiseman denied the motion.

Brady material refers to a piece of evidence known to the prosecution that is important for establishing the innocence or reducing the punishment of a defendant.

Following Wiseman's denial, Guerrero filed a similar motion with the CNMI Supreme Court. The high court denied the motion, but remanded the matter to Superior Court with instruction for the trial court to determine whether the AGIU report contained Brady material.

After the high court decision but before Wiseman could evaluate the AGIU report, Guerrero filed a motion to reconsider the high court's denial of stay.

Guerrero claimed, among other things, that the high court did not have authority to remand the AGIU-report issue for further proceedings. The high court denied his motion to reconsider.

Guerrero again asked the high court to reconsider the stay's denial. The latest motion comes on the heels of Wiseman's review of the AGIU report.

According to Wiseman's findings, the report did not include Brady materials for three reasons: One, it did not contain any evidence favorable to Guerrero. Two, Guerrero has now seen the report but still has not claimed or shown how the evidence would be favorable to his case. Three, the report contained substantially the same information as a later report that the Commonwealth provided Guerrero.

Wiseman said that since Guerrero received the later report, not having the first one did not result in any prejudice.

In the high court's order on Tuesday, the justices said that Guerrero's motion is more properly viewed as his fourth attempt to stay sentencing (once at the trial level, thrice at the appellate level).

The justices said they established the following rule: a defendant may not file more than one motion to stay sentencing except when compelling circumstances justify further motions.

The justices said the general prohibition against multiple motions serves the principles of finality and judicial economy by encouraging defendants to bring all of their meritorious claims in a single motion.

Meanwhile, the justices said they must address whether the government's failure to turn over the original AGIU report violated the Brady rule because the report contained materials bearing on Guerrero's guilt.

Under the Brady rule, due process is violated if the government withholds evidence that is both favorable to the accused and material to either guilt or sentencing.

Here, the justices said, the AGIU report contains no favorable evidence and is therefore not Brady material.

Guerrero was ordered to start serving his sentence on Dec. 1, 2013. According to the court's commitment order, Guerrero began sexually molesting the now 17-year-old girl in 2010 when she was in the 9th grade and continued doing so up to May 2012 on five different occasions.

'Hawaii not required to fill gap on health care for Compact migrants'

By OSKAR GARCIA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU—Hawaii isn't required to fund Medicaid for migrants from three Pacific Island nations in Micronesia to make up for a reduction in federal funding, a federal appeals court ruled Tuesday.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said in a ruling filed Tuesday that Hawaii has no constitutional obligation to fill a gap left in 1996 when Congress cut health care funding for migrants under the Compact of Free Association.

The cuts have been a source of tension between the state and territorial governments and the U.S. federal government over who should pay for services to the migrants.

The compact gives Palau, Marshall Islands, and Federated States of Micronesia citizens the right to live and work in the U.S. In exchange, the U.S. military controls extensive strategic land and water in the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and China—including the Kwajalein Atoll, a site of missile testing and space activities.

The opinion vacated a preliminary injunction from a lower federal court in Hawaii that stopped state health officials from reducing coverage for migrants by moving them to a more limited health system. The new system limited doctors' visits, hospital stays and prescription drugs, while leaving migrants ineligible for organ and tissue transplants or the state's long-term care insurance plans, according to the Tuesday ruling.

Officials with the Hawaii health and human services departments and attorney general's office said in a joint statement that the state would review and analyze the decision and its programs to determine how best to proceed.

An attorney representing the migrants who brought forth the original lawsuit did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

In February, Guam government officials reported spending $128 million during the past fiscal year for education health care and other services for the migrants, while being reimbursed only $16 million from the federal government.

Guam, Hawaii, and the Northern Mariana Islands spent more than $1 billion combined on services between 2004 and 2010, not accounting for contributions migrants made through taxes and labor.

State and local governments have pushed the federal government for more help given rising health care costs.

U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa introduced a bill last year to restore Medicaid for compact migrants, while U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono pushed for an amendment doing the same thing in a comprehensive Senate immigration bill.

The Quality & Comfort
Your Family Deserves...
Carrier
turn to the experts
Authorized Dealer
AdvanceCarrier
HVAC-R • MECHANICAL CONTRACTING
You're ahead with Advance...
Sales / Installation / Service
Home Comfort Preventive Maintenance Program
Duct Works / Ventilation
Parts and Supply
Energy Saver, environmental friendly units / 16-21 SEER units
Ductless Mini-Splits / Package Type / Central Air conditioning / Chiller
HVAC Planning, Design, and Consultation
Residential / Commercial / Industrial
Gualo Rai Business Center, P.O. Box 503139 • Tel: 670-233-2665 / 0210
Fax: 670-233-2100 • Email: info@advancecarrier.com
ACE Hardware - Gualo Rai
Docomo
Pizza Hut
FHB
Shell Gas Station - Gualo Rai
MIDDLE ROAD - GUALO RAI

BUDGET

From Page 1

casino gaming on Saipan.

Inos, meanwhile, is now on a personal trip to Honolulu, Hawaii, and is expected to be back on Friday, press secretary Angel Demapan confirmed yesterday.

Also off-island are Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and Senate vice president Victor Hocog (R-Rota), making floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan) acting president from April 1 to 4.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson reported gross budgetary resources of $170 million for fiscal year 2015, which runs from Oct. 1, 2014 to Sept. 30, 2015.

Of this amount, $134.33 million is available for general appropriation.

The new budget is also 8.9 percent higher than the fiscal year 2014 budget of $123.4 million.

Inos said the increase is a result of increased tax collections from tourism growth, tax compliance including a tax amnesty program, and stronger enforcement of laws.

Upward growth in tourism throughout 2015 is projected but that growth will be limited to current capacity.

"Hotel rooms and airline seats are at capacity and cannot increase unless additional investment is made in the hotel and airline industries," Inos said in his budget transmittal letter to House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and the Senate president.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said yesterday that panel members will be given ample time to review the governor's budget submission before calling a meeting.

Sablan said the committee will schedule hearings on select agencies' 2015 budget requests.

A new budget bill has to be passed and signed into law prior to Oct. 1 or the government will have to shut down starting on the new fiscal year's first day and until a budget is passed.

The governor's proposed budget merges the Division of Roads and Grounds under the Department of Public Works into the Division of Parks and Recreation under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Utility expenses remain decentralized.

The proposed budget also sets aside $220,000 to cover the federally-mandated 50-cent increase in minimum wage on Sept. 30, 2014.

The governor removed all vacant and new positions except those currently announced.

Inos also imposed travel restrictions using local funds.

Retirement, PSS, NMC

Of the governor's $134 million proposed 2015 budget, $27 million or 20 percent is only for the minimum annual payment into the retirement settlement trust fund.

The Public School System gets over $32.279 million, equivalent to 24 percent of the total general fund resources or 9 percent in excess of the constitutional mandate of 15 percent, the governor said.

Of this allocation, over $28.86 million is to satisfy current actual salaries for PSS and $3.4 million as maintenance-of-effort or MOE allocation.

He said the MOE allocation is to satisfy MOE obligations due to PSS for fiscal year 2010 and partially for fiscal year 2011.

"The central government is committed to fulfilling its outstanding MOE obligation in fiscal year 2016 in the amount of $1,738,940 for the PSS. The PSS has the flexibility on how the application of the additional funding will be used, but we highly recommend the use of these funds to pay down amount owed to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for outstanding utilities," Inos said.

Northern Marianas College gets $3.93 million under the governor's proposed 2015 budget. Of this amount, $315,192 is to satisfy MOE obligations due to NMC for fiscal year 2010.

Inos said the central government is committed to fulfill its outstanding MOE obligation in fiscal year 2016 in the amount of $590,311 for NMC.

In addition to the proposed budget, $700,000 will be allocated to NMC from the Commonwealth Worker Fee Fund and $86,762 from Compact Impact. Total NMC allocation is $5.031-plus million.

As far as overall government activities funding of $134 million, education gets 28 percent, public safety and law enforcement gets 11 percent, and health gets 6 percent. General government is 33 percent, while the rest—between 1 percent and 4 percent—are for other uses such as for social services and utilities.

CPUC

From Page 1

Northern Marianas Islands and Saipan Facilities Management Association are in negotiations with CUC regarding possible new tariff charges in lieu of the standby charge.

CPUC hearing examiner Harry Boertzel said that provision 3 of the order on the document had been amended. Provision 3 states, "CUC has informed the commission in an April 1, 2014, report, that there are active discussions between it, SFMA, and HANMI on incentive rate options (alternative tariff) to encourage self-generating large commercial customer to become full requirement electric customers. …The hearing examiner is authorized, in consultation with the parties and participants to determine whether CUC should craft this alternative tariff or whether it should be prepared by Georgetown Consultant Group."

According to Boertzel, the previous order had Georgetown supposedly drafting an alternative tariff, but based on CUC consultant Robert Young's report, provision 3 needed to be revised.

Young said that he had been in continuous discussions over the past couple of weeks with almost every member of HANMI and majority of the SFMA to see if there is an arrangement, "an incentive rate to get them to come back into the grid."

"There's been tough and frank decisions, but I think were getting close and I would expect within three weeks we could probably file a proposal for review in consideration with the CPUC, its consultants, and [Georgetown Consulting]," Young said.

CUC counsel Deborah Fisher said that CUC wanted to briefly discuss the standby charge issue: the tariff that CUC "originally asked for versus the large customer tariff."

"We want to make it clear that the standby charge is going to be something different than any kind of commercial tariff that could be developed," Fisher said.

According to Fisher, they have been discussing the matter with HANMI and SFMA representatives and are looking to try and find solutions to help everyone.

"But at the same time we have the standby tariff which comprises a $2-million base rate that was found to be necessary. Not only that, it's about the fact that utilities around the country have some form of standby charge," Fisher said. "Without that in place, it leaves us in a position where were not able to make up or to even address the issue of large customer on a standby position," she added.

DYNASTY

From Page 1

investment on Tinian, including building a new 1,000-room hotel on Kastiyu, a scenic Tinian area atop Carolinas Plateau. The planned investment in the Puntan Kastiyu project alone is estimated at $200 million.

The plan includes a 36-hole golf course, and a $5 million water park on Tinian.

Mega Stars said its management team, investors, and lawyers are carefully reviewing each aspect of Public Law 18-38 or the Saipan casino law that was later amended by PL 18-43, "to see how they will affect what was to be a very significant additional investment on Tinian."

"Simply stated, we are seriously considering discontinuing any additional investment in the CNMI due to what our investors perceive to be an irrational business environment here. At the same time, Mega Stars does not want to see major economic disruption for the people of Tinian, to Mega Stars' existing investments, or the CNMI because one particular potential investor was able to persuade a few politicians to do his bidding," Mega Stars said in a statement.

The investor said it was "shocked" that a Saipan casino bill would pass the Senate, barely months after it invested in Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and began laying the groundwork for its other planned significant investments on Tinian.

"In July 2013, Mega Stars Overseas Ltd. decided to invest in the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino based on its vision that the island of Tinian could be developed into an upscale international resort and casino destination. Mega Stars saw that Tinian has unspoiled beaches, plentiful fishing, natural terrain suitable for world class golf courses, and beautiful ocean views available for the development of villas and additional high-end hotels," it said.

It added that the people of Tinian were very friendly and welcoming to visitors and investors, and seemed committed to assisting Mega Stars in carrying out its vision that would also benefit the people of Tinian.

It said it received assurances from the CNMI government, including Tinian and Saipan lawmakers, that a bill allowing casino gaming on Saipan won't be passed because casinos on Saipan "would have a significant competitive advantage over gaming operations on Tinian because of the lack of direct flights into Tinian.

Mega Stars, however, was aware that casino could be legalized on Saipan if approved by a majority of Saipan voters.

"Knowing that the people of Saipan had already twice rejected such legislation, Mega Stars decided to proceed with its investment in the Dynasty in December 2013 and to begin laying the groundwork for its other planned significant investments on Tinian. Who could have imagined that three months later a new casino bill would be introduced and passed through the House and the Senate in two days, without even the benefit of public hearings?" it said.

They said the same senators—including two from Tinian—who repeatedly assured Mega Stars that they would not support the legalization of casino gaming on Saipan "went ahead and voted contrary to their repeated promises."

The casino bill became law on March 21. To address many of its problematic provisions, the original law was later amended.

"Mega Stars was shocked by this sudden development. Mega Stars had nothing to do with the drafting or the passage of PL 18-38," it said.

It said even the amendment measure has some "very significant defects, not the least of which is that it clearly appears to have been drafted and passed solely for the benefit of one particular anticipated investor."

"To this day, no CNMI politician will even admit responsibility for participating in the drafting of the dreadful legislation—doing away with tax rebates for everyone except the new casino investor—that would become PL 18-38," it added.

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), one of the lawmakers who voted against the Saipan casino bill, said yesterday that while it is up to Mega Stars to decide whether to continue or not its planned additional investments on Tinian, he hopes they will still pursue them.

"It's a wait and see for now," Conner added.

PETITION

From Page 1

Signing the petition between now and early June does not mean voting "yes" or "no" to keep or remove Article 12 restrictions, but only to give voters an opportunity in November to decide whether they want a constitutional amendment to remove the mandatory restrictions on owning lands in the CNMI.

Attorney Vincent J. Seman, chairman of the Citizens for Change of Article XII, said yesterday they would like to gather at least 8,000 signatures to ensure that the question will be placed on the ballot.

Once they gather enough number of signatures—subject to the Office of the Attorney General's certification—voters would then be asked whether they want to keep or remove Article 12's restrictions.

The group needs to get the signatures of at least 50 percent of the CNMI's registered voters. As of March 25, data from the Commonwealth Election Commission shows that the number of registered voters is 15,796.

"This initiative gives landowners the option to choose between keeping Article 12 and to be applicable to their property or letting people file a declaration of non-restriction that exempts their property from Article 12 restrictions, in which case you are free to do whatever you want with your property, including selling in an open market for the highest value," Seman said.

Blood quantum

The initiative also changes the blood quantum to "any degree" to address another reality that many of the CNMI's current and future generations are falling out of the 25 percent requirement.

Many families in the CNMI now have children at 25 percent NMD blood, the last level of eligibility to own land. These families may not be able to pass on the land to their children.

But while entities such as CCART XII want removal of Article 12 restrictions, there are also others that either want to keep the constitutional provision untouched or want some of its portions changed but not total repeal.

For example, others are open only to the idea of changing the 25 percent NMD blood quantum requirement to own land in the CNMI to 1 percent or any percent.

However, while Article 12 restricts land ownership to those with at least 25 percent NMD blood, an adopted minor child with no NMD blood at all—a child from China or the Philippines, for example—is considered 100 percent NMD.

CCART XII's Seman announced the planned Article 12 popular initiative during yesterday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting at Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

He said Article 12 "has served its purpose" and is causing undue hardships on landowners and their families and businesses.

Time to decide

Section 805 of the Covenant agreement between the United States and the NMI requires that land alienation be restricted until 25 years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. That was meant to protect persons of Northern Marianas descent from unexpected exploitation from aggressive and economically more advanced outside groups, and protect their land ownership as part of their culture and tradition.

After 25 years, the CNMI government may continue to regulate land alienation as provided in the Covenant without mutual consent agreement unless a constitutional amendment is approved to repeal Article 12 of the NMI Constitution. That 25-year period ended on Nov. 3, 2011.

"Our group is taking the lead in trying to put the popular initiative in this November's ballot to give the people a chance to vote on this issue first and foremost," Seman told Chamber members and guests.

In an interview, Seman said that the popular initiative takes off from both House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz's (Ind-Saipan) legislative initiative, as well as that of Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro's (R-Saipan).

Ogumoro's legislative initiative, now in the November ballot, would ask voters whether they approve or not a proposed amendment to Article 12 to allow any U.S. citizen with "at least some degree" of Chamorro or Carolinian blood to be considered a person of Northern Marianas descent and can therefore own land in the CNMI.

Inos restores CUC board's full power after 9 years

»CUC emergency remains over financial, technical worker crises

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos restored on Monday the full power of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors, which will hold its first board meeting today—nine years since the last one was abolished. But the governor continues to place CUC under a state of emergency because financial and technical worker crises remain, although he amended his latest executive order to officially acknowledge a "fully functioning" board "to direct the operations of CUC."

For some nine years, starting with Inos' predecessors, the governor has assumed "all powers and duties of the board of directors of CUC."

Inos, as early as last year, said he would like to restore the CUC board and started nominating individuals to serve on the board, three of them recently confirmed by the Senate.

They include David J. Sablan Jr., Adelina Roberto, and Christopher Concepcion. Commonwealth Development Authority board chair Diego Songao also becomes an automatic member of the CUC board. Under the law, the CDA board chairman also becomes a member of the CUC board.

The governor also recently appointed Joseph T. Torres to serve on the CUC board representing Saipan, but the Senate has yet to confirm his appointment.

Inos officially restored CUC board's power on March 31 when he amended his March 14 executive order on CUC's emergency for another 30 days.

"Whereas, a fully functioning board of directors now exists to direct the operations of CUC. Thus, Executive Order No. 2014-04 must be amended to reflect this fact and allow the board to resume its proper role in directing the affairs of CUC," Inos said in the EO amendment dated March 31, but was received by the Legislature only on April 1.

Inos

The lack of a functioning CUC board was among the reasons for placing the corporation under a state of emergency, along with financial and technical worker crises.

Inos said CUC is still owed some $20 million by the Public School System and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and is owed millions more by residential owners.

The governor added that, although the economy has recently improved, the improvement is only marginal and the economy and the government's finances are still fragile.

House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) said in an interview he's "glad" that the CUC board has been re-established and looks forward to more improvements at CUC's operations and policy decisions.

"I hope they [board] can now look at CUC under a microscope and see exactly how the operation of CUC is handled by its management. I've gone as far as presenting a House joint resolution for the removal of Mr. [Alan] Fletcher. I believe that CUC can be run more efficiently and less costly than under Mr. Fletcher's management," Dela Cruz said.

The House vice speaker has been critical of the way CUC is being run, but Fletcher said CUC has been operating in the best manner it can given its limited resources and the circumstances. Dela Cruz said the CUC board members "need to get their feet wet before making any decision."

"And I think it's high time that CUC is made to walk on its own two feet, not dictated under orders of the governor," he added.

Dela Cruz also hopes that government agencies will pay their arrears with CUC, and that government agencies owing money to the utilities agency should not be treated differently from residential and commercial customers.

"The board is not for the administration but for CUC and the people they serve. They have to be fair. CUC should not treat the government differently," the lawmaker added.

He also hopes that the CUC board will work on lowering utility rates for its customers.

Today's CUC board meeting, starting at 9am, will be a reorganizational one to elect the board officers and adopt rules of procedure, among other things.

Guam inmate treated for active tuberculosis

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—All 720 inmates and employees at the Department of Corrections will have to be tested for tuberculosis after a detainee was diagnosed with the infectious disease just recently.

The detainee, according to Public Health Director James Gillan, is in isolation at the Guam Memorial Hospital and is being treated.

The Centers for Disease Control are currently investigating how many people the prisoner at Corrections may have come in contact with during his time behind bars.

DOC Internal Affairs Officer Jeff Limo says the CDC was at the correctional facility yesterday conducting an investigation and as soon as the investigation is complete, they will commence TB testing.

Public Health Director Gillan says he only found out about the case yesterday. He said the inmate in question "has active TB and it's a fairly serious stage and he's isolation."

He adds that they're "trying now to determine whether it's multiple drug resistant. So we're gonna do a lot of work on that and our lab can handle a lot of that specimen."

Tinian lawmakers OK $112K for programs, projects

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation passed yesterday morning an amended local bill appropriating $112,000 in poker license fees for patients' subsistence allowance, medical referral, scholarship and other activities including $15,000 for the four-member delegation's own spending.

House Local Bill 18-48, Draft 1 passed by a vote of 4-0. The bill, authored by Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), now goes to the governor for action.

The amendment includes removal of $10,000 originally proposed for payment of a court judgment, and gives the amount instead to the Tinian delegation, chaired by Sen. Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian).

The Tinian delegation gets a total of $15,000 under the amended local bill—$3,000 of which was taken from the Tinian Municipal Scholarship, and $2,000 from Tinian Health Center's medical referral program.

Of the total $112,000 proposed appropriation, $45,000 is for the monthly subsistence allowance of patients on dialysis, those with cancer, multiple sclerosis, debilitating epilepsy seizure disorder and dermatomytositis, as well as post-cerebral vascular accident patients.

The Tinian Municipal Scholarship gets $35,000, while the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation, $15,000.

Tinian Little League gets $10,000, while $5,000 goes to expenses related to the Attorney General's Cup. The remaining $2,000 goes to the Tinian Health Center's medical referral program.

Besides Conner and chairman Borja, the two other Tinian delegation members are Sens. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) and Joaquin Borja (Ind-Tinian).

2 restaurants closed down due to violations

The Bureau of Environmental Health closed down two Garapan restaurants in March due to serious violations of health and sanitation standards.

According to a bureau statement yesterday, the New Ming Palace Restaurant and the Kazan Restaurant were closed down on March 31, 2014. The statement did not indicate if these two restaurants have already reopened since then.

BEH conducted sanitary inspections during the month of March on several retail, eating and drinking establishments.

GRADE "A"

1. Children's World Daycare, Koblerville
2. New Manna, San Vicente
3. Blue Koi Tavern, Garapan
4. Salty's Bar, Garapan
5. Natibu's Kitchen, Koblerville
6. Penguin's Bar, Garapan
7. New Macau Bar, Garapan
8. Saipan Country Club, Chalan Lau Lau
9. Revolving Restaurant 360, Susupe
10. D'Elegance Restaurant, Garapan
11. Julie's BBQ Stand, Garapan
12. LS Mart, Lower Navy Hill
13. Happiness Restaurant, Garapan
14. Happiness Bar, Garapan
15. Shin Juku Karaoke Club
16. Love Hula, Garapan
17. Pretty Market, Garapan
18. Green Meadow Daycare, Gualo Rai
19. Shirley's Coffee Shop, Susupe
20. Shirley's Coffee Shop, Garapan
21. La Bella Restaurant, Grapan
22. Cool Spot Kagman
23. Fiesta Resort & Spa, Garapan
24. LSG Sky Chef Catering, Airport
25. LSG Sky Garden Snack Bar, Airport
26. Hafa Adai Lounge & Bar Garden, Airport
27. LSG Café Aroma, Airport
28. LSG Ten Japanese Noodle, Airport
29. Shenanigan's Restaurant, Garapan
30. Mount Carmel School, Susupe
31. SDA School, Chalan Kiya
32. Dikerson & Quinn Wholesale, Tanapag
33. C&R Distributor, Chalan Lau Lau
34. Ken's Thrifty Mart, Chalan Piao
35. ECO Camp Learning Center, Marpi
36. Saipan International School, As Lito
37. Java Joe's Coffee Shop, Dan Dan
38. Uncle Ed's BBQ & Restaurant, Garapan
39. Gentle Brook Café, Susupe
40. Royal Supplies Wholesale, Koblerville
41. Noni Juice Manufature, Garapan
42. Island Infuion
43. Hotel Sun Palace Snack Bar, Susupe
44. Saipan World Resort, Susupe

GRADE "B"

1. New Top Store, Dan Dan
2. US Mart
3. Ling Lin Store II, Kagman
4. Connie's BBQ & Fast Food

GRADE "C"

"NONE"

There may have been changes to these grades since this information was released. For updated information, call the bureau at 664-4870/2 or fax 664-4871. ***(PR)***

1 Saipan beach red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the beach along Kanoa Resort on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from this site contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

BEST WISHES! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Brittany Igitol and Juan Maratita II on your engagement! Igitol, who just returned from deployment, was flown to Kentucky to spend a mini-vacation with her boyfriend. Little did Igitol know that Maratita was planning to ask for her hand in marriage. Maratita, who joined the U.S. Army late last year, is the son of Juan and Tracy Maratita.

Cancer survivors invited to MMAC dinner

The 2014 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee is inviting all cancer survivors and those undergoing cancer treatment to its "Annual Survivor Dinner" on May 2 at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao.

The dinner is held in honor of the MMAC event and will begin at 6pm.

"As a way of showing our support and respect to all our loved ones who have been directly affected by cancer, the MMAC Committee, together with our generous sponsors, will be hosting a survivor dinner," said 2014 MMAC Committee chair Manny Borja.

"Each survivor will be treated to a complimentary dinner buffet and will be awarded a unique medallion and T-shirt commemorating their fight against cancer. This is a very important part of the MMAC. Every one of us knows someone who has been affected by cancer and the survivor dinner and ceremony is our chance to celebrate their perseverance and strength," Borja added.

The 2014 MMAC will be held from 6pm to 6am on May 2 to 3 at Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao.

MMAC's title sponsors are Bank of Guam, Delta Air Lines, DFS Saipan, Ltd., GPPC, Island Apparel, IT &E, Joeten Daidai Foundation, *Marianas Variety*, Sorensen Media Group, and Take Care/FHP.

MMAC's major sponsors are Brabu Pharmacy, Docomo Pacific, First Hawaiian Bank, IP&E, McDonald's of Saipan, Precision Medical Imaging, Saipan Mayor's Office, Traders Insurance Co., and Xerox Corp.

To participate in the survivor dinner or for more information, contact MMAC survivor committee chair Nora Sablan at 285-5124 or email norasablan@gmail.com.

For more information on the MMAC event, call 989-1987 or email emanuel_borja@gmail.com or visit the website at www.ccamarianas.org. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB14-DPS/OHSR-076
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 29, 2014 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A LED SIGN TRAILER FOR THE ROTA DPS TRAFFIC SECTION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
Commissioner of DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

Accountant
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, April 04, 2014.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

SUPERIOR COURT
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, U.S.A.
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307

Announcement for Transcription Services

The CNMI Judiciary is seeking qualified businesses or individuals to provide transcription services for the Commonwealth Superior Court pursuant to CNMI Procurement Regulations: NMIAC § 70-30.3-220. Interested parties should pick up an information packet with submission requirements and instructions from the Office of the Clerk of Court, Superior Court located in the Guma Husticia/Imwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan. Submissions are due no later than April 30, 2014. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court at 236-9766 or 236-9765.

ZONING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

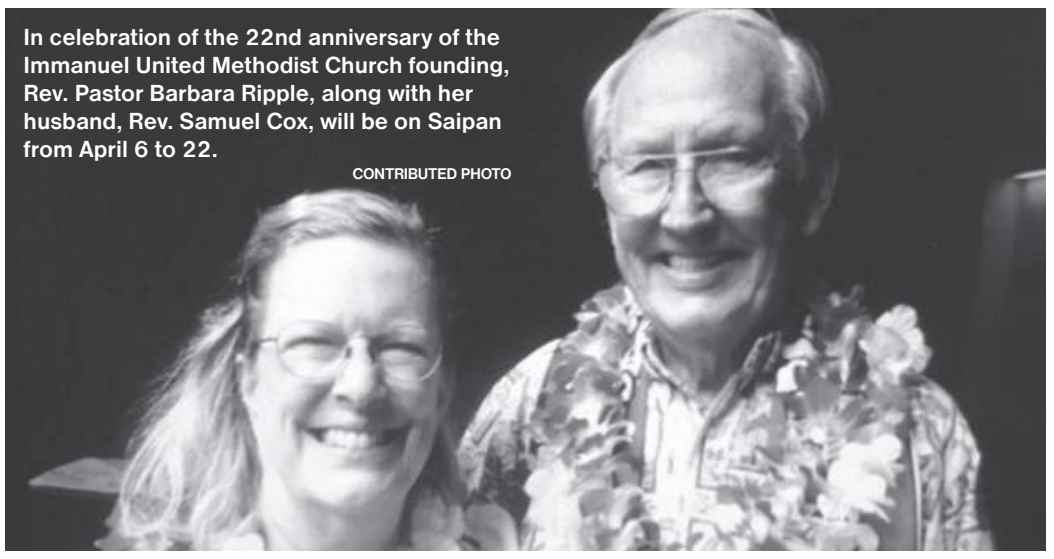
This is to inform the general public that the Zoning Office staff will be conducting outfield inspections and enforcement activities on Friday, April 4, 2014, and therefore the office will be closed from 12:00-4:30 pm. Normal operations will resume on Monday, April 7, 2014.

We apologize for any inconvenience, and we thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

The Commonwealth Zoning Board / Zoning Office

Immanuel UMC to mark 22nd founding anniversary



In celebration of the 22nd anniversary of the Immanuel United Methodist Church founding, Rev. Pastor Barbara Ripple, along with her husband, Rev. Samuel Cox, will be on Saipan from April 6 to 22.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LIST OF ACTIVITIES:

- **April 13, 2014:** Palm Sunday 9am service at IUMC
- **April 17, 2014:** Maundy Thursday Service time TBD at IUMC
- **April 18, 2014:** Good Friday Service time TBD at IUMC
- **April 20, 2014:** Easter Sunrise Service place and time TBD

On Palm Sunday, April 5, 1992, a group of 10 gathered in the sanctuary of the Immanuel Korean Methodist Church on Saipan for worship and fellowship, hosted by members of the Korean congregation and its pastor, the Rev. Myung Taek Lee. Barbara Ripple, an ordained United Methodist minister and new resident of Saipan, had accepted Rev. Lee's suggestion to begin services in the English language, and had posted notices throughout Saipan and in the local newspaper announcing the beginning of worship services in the United Methodist tradition. Besides the Korean-speaking Methodists who hosted them, those who attended that first service came from the Philippines, Fiji, and the United States. The religious backgrounds of those who came, besides United Methodists, were Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Congregational, and United Church of Christ.

Rev. Ripple continued as pastor of Immanuel UMC since its inception until July 1998, when Bishop Roy Sano appointed her to be the District Superintendent of the Hawaii District (which includes Guam and Saipan). Others who have served as pastors of Immanuel UMC include David Corbin, Jaime Vergara, Norma Kehrberg, Ewing "Bud" Carroll, J.J. Matsumoto, and Mary "Millie" Carroll.

In celebration of the 22nd anniversary of the Immanuel United Methodist Church founding, Rev. Pastor Barbara Ripple along with her husband, Rev. Samuel Cox, will be on Saipan from April 6 to 22. Rev. Pastor Ripple will be preaching on April 6, 2014, at IUMC at 9am with several other services and activities leading up to Easter.

All former members and friends of Rev. Ripple are welcome to attend the celebration on April 6. The IUMC in Chalan Kanoa is on Chalan Kanoa Street and Barbara Avenue (east of Town House Center and Beach Road, near Mount Carmel Catholic Church.) For further information contact Sol Corpuz at 989-0955, or Pam Carhill at 287-4646 or an email can be sent to saipaniumc@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

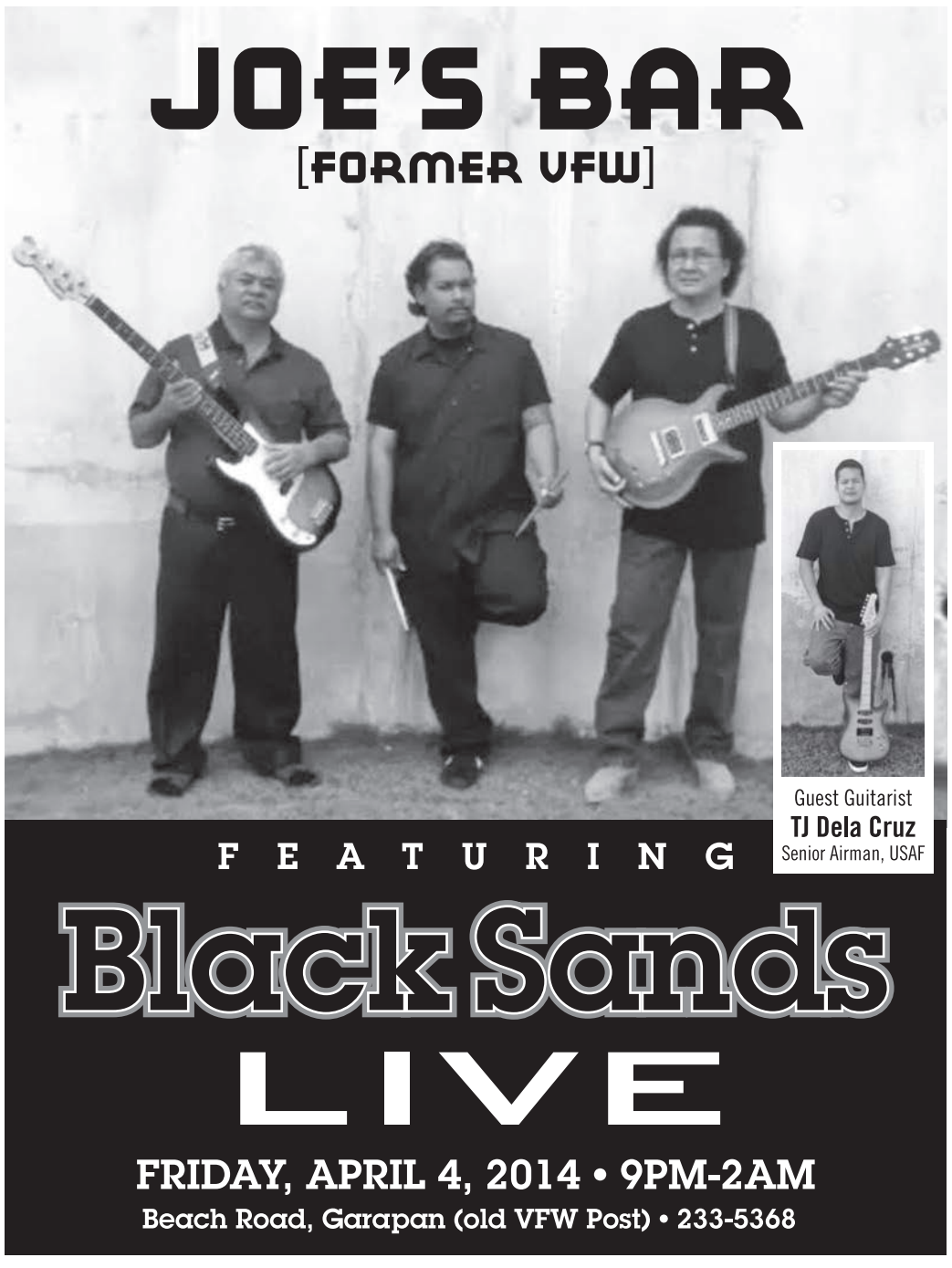
BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

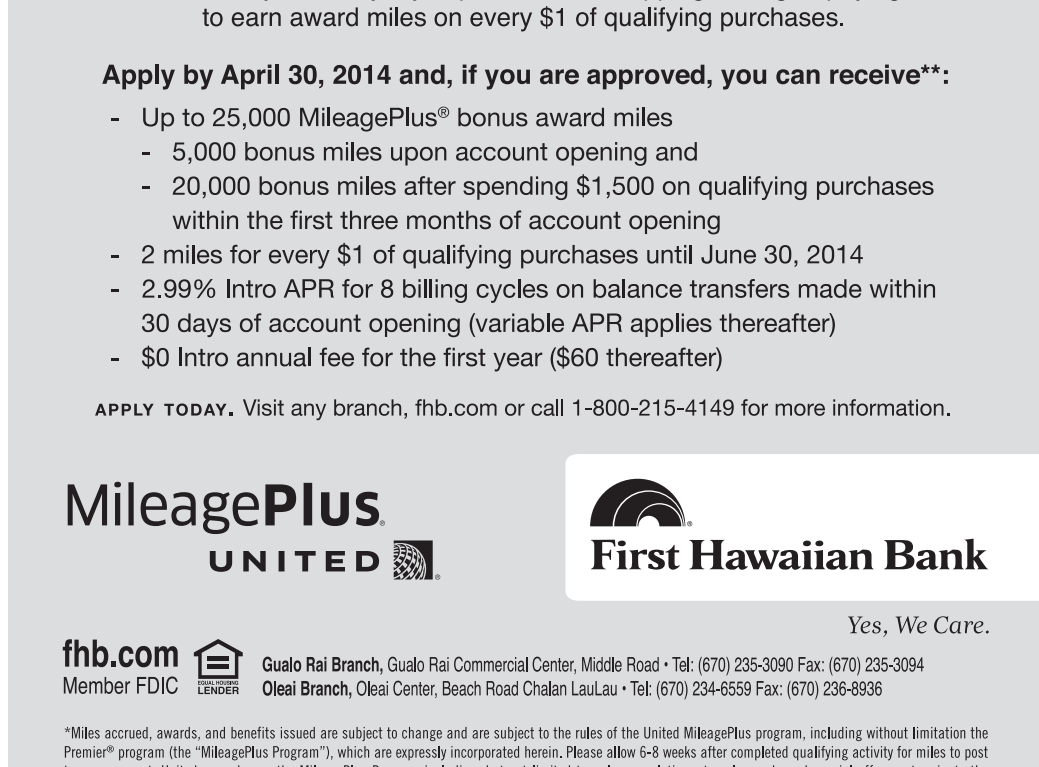
Happy birthday to my No. 1 Nino, Jake Hiram Maratita! Wishing you the very best on your special day. Thank you for all you have done, treating me like your very own and helping my mommy out. With Love, from your only princess, Kayhana Faith.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A big birthday shoutout to Lena K. Wabol! You are sweet, loving, and caring. May the good Lord continue to shower you with even more blessings. Wishing you a day as special and awesome as you are, Happy birthday! I love you "beti" much!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





Explore more with the
United MileagePlus® Credit Card*.

Reward yourself with the vacation of your dreams. Use the United MileagePlus® Credit Card for your everyday expenses, like shopping, dining or paying bills, to earn award miles on every $1 of qualifying purchases.

Apply by April 30, 2014 and, if you are approved, you can receive:**

- Up to 25,000 MileagePlus® bonus award miles
  - 5,000 bonus miles upon account opening and
  - 20,000 bonus miles after spending $1,500 on qualifying purchases within the first three months of account opening
- 2 miles for every $1 of qualifying purchases until June 30, 2014
- 2.99% Intro APR for 8 billing cycles on balance transfers made within 30 days of account opening (variable APR applies thereafter)
- $0 Intro annual fee for the first year ($60 thereafter)

APPLY TODAY. Visit any branch, fhb.com or call 1-800-215-4149 for more information.

MileagePlus. UNITED

First Hawaiian Bank

Yes, We Care.

fhb.com Member FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090 Fax: (670) 235-3094
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan LauLau • Tel: (670) 234-6559 Fax: (670) 236-8936

*Miles accrued, awards, and benefits issued are subject to change and are subject to the rules of the United MileagePlus program, including without limitation the Premier® program (the "MileagePlus Program"), which are expressly incorporated herein. Please allow 6-8 weeks after completed qualifying activity for miles to post to your account. United may change the MileagePlus Program including, but not limited to, rules, regulations, travel awards and special offers or terminate the MileagePlus Program at any time and without notice. United and its subsidiaries, affiliates and agents are not responsible for any products or services of other participating companies and partners. Taxes and fees related to award travel are the responsibility of the member. Bonus award miles, award miles and any other miles earned through non-flight activity do not count toward qualification for Premier status unless expressly stated otherwise. The accumulation of mileage or Premier status or any other status does not entitle members to any vested rights with respect to the MileagePlus Program. MileagePlus Program participation may not be permitted in some countries. All calculations made in connection with the MileagePlus Program, including without limitation with respect to the accumulation of mileage and the satisfaction of the qualification requirements for Premier status, will be made by United Airlines and MileagePlus in their discretion and such calculations will be considered final. Information in this communication that relates to the MileagePlus Program does not purport to be complete or comprehensive and may not include all of the information that a member may believe is important, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to all of the information on the united.com website and the MileagePlus Program rules. United and MileagePlus are registered service marks. For complete details about the MileagePlus Program, go to www.united.com.

**Subject to credit approval. Apply for the United MileagePlus® credit card by 04/30/14 and, if you're approved, receive 5,000 bonus miles at account opening and 20,000 bonus miles if you spend $1,500 in purchases within the first 3 months after your account is opened. The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) for Purchases is a variable rate of 16.24% as of 02/01/14. The intro fixed APR for balance transfers is 2.99% for the first eight billing cycles following the opening of your account for balance transfers made within 30 days of account opening. After that, the variable rate will apply. The fixed Cash Advance APR is 18.00%. The fixed Penalty APR is 18.00% and may be applied if you make a late payment. The Minimum Interest Charge will be no less than $1.00. The Foreign Transaction Fee is 2.5% of the U.S. dollar amount of any Purchase or Cash Advance made in a foreign currency. The ATM Cash Advance Fee is 3% of the transaction amount ($3 min/$50 max) and the Over-the-Counter Cash Advance and Convenience Check Fees are 3% of the transaction amount ($5 min/$50 max). The Balance Transfer Fee is 3% of the transaction amount ($5 min). $0 introductory annual fee for the first year after account opening; thereafter, the annual fee is $60. Additional limitations, terms and conditions apply. See the United MileagePlus® Credit Card Agreement for more information.

FOR OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE, VIOLATING ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Ex-CNMI senator sentenced to 41 months imprisonment

United States Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, announced that Juan Manglona Ayuyu, former senator for the island of Rota in the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, was sentenced on March 31, 2014, by Judge Ramona Manglona in the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. Ayuyu was sentenced to 41 months in federal prison followed by three years of supervised release for his convictions of conspiring to obstruct a grand jury investigation and conspiring to violate the Endangered Species Act. Ayuyu was also ordered to perform 100 hours of community service.

Ayuyu and his legislative assistant, Ryan James Inos Manglona, attempted to transport eight federally protected Mariana fruit bats, or *fanihi*, on board a Freedom Air flight from Rota to Saipan. The bats, however, were discovered by the Transportation Security Administration, and Ayuyu instructed Manglona to lie to a federal grand jury investigating their involvement.

Ayuyu

The investigation was led by Erwin T. Flores, Conservation Inspector with the CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife, an agency under the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources, together with agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Garth R. Backe. ***(USAO)***

Cable TV providers, Viacom reach deal

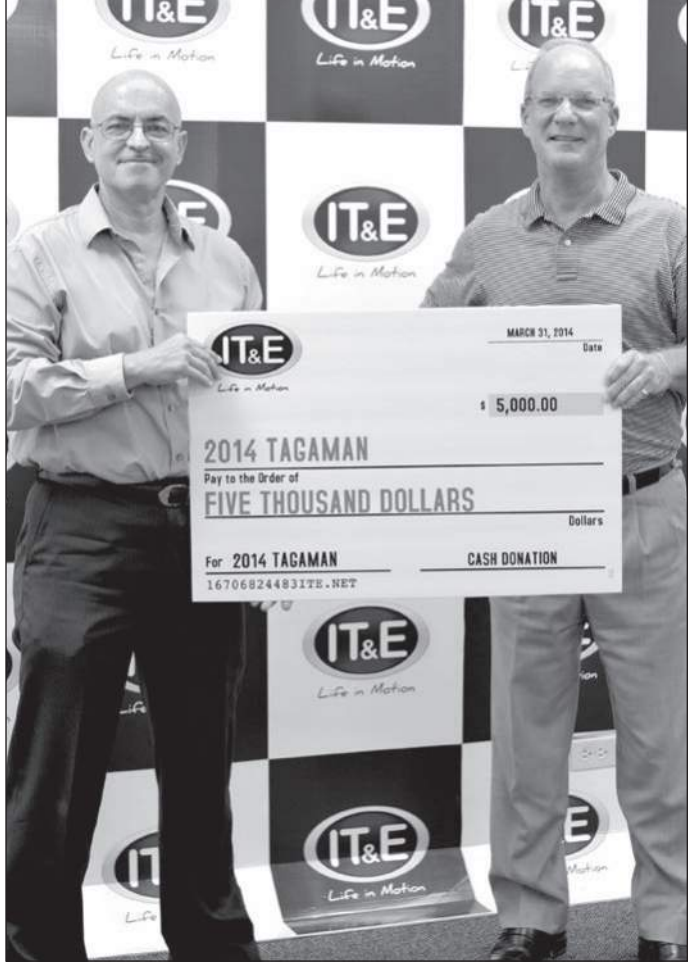
LENEXA, KS and NEW YORK, NY—The National Cable Television Cooperative and Viacom reached an agreement to renew carriage of Viacom's media networks by NCTC's more than 800 member companies to include DOCOMO Pacific. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Judy Meyka, NCTC executive vice president of Programming, said: "Viacom is and remains one of NCTC's largest content providers and we are pleased to have reached an agreement that will provide opportunities for our members to distribute their content over multiple platforms."

"We're grateful to have reached an agreement with NCTC that will allow millions of viewers nationwide to continue to enjoy our programming," said Denise Denson, executive vice president, Content Distribution and Marketing, Viacom. "We commend NCTC for collaborating with Viacom to reach a fair deal that puts viewers first." ***(PR)***

IT&E DONATES TO FLAME TREE FESTIVAL CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E donates cash and in-kind for the 33rd annual Flame Tree Arts Festival. From left to right: Flame Tree Committee members Parker Yobei and Sixto Igisomar, IT&E head business analyst Ernesto Paz, IT&E Sales & Marketing manager Hans Mickelson, and Flame Tree Committee members Celia Mercardo and Gloriana Teuira. IT&E has been supporting this annual event since it first began. This year's event will be held on April 24 - 27 at the Civic Center Park, Susupe.



...AND TO TAGAMAN TRIATHLON CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wolf Mojica, president of Tagaman, Inc., accepts IT&E's cash donation from IT&E's Sales & Marketing manager Hans Mickelson. The annual Tagaman event is a major sporting event in the CNMI that IT&E has been supporting for over 20 years.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 3, 2006

'Local produce, livestock are of poor quality'

An agricultural trade mission from Korea discovered that Saipan's produce and livestock are below standards, according to CNMI agriculturists. Department of Lands and Natural Resources agriculturist Ben Borja and Isidoro Cabrera, agricultural consultant to the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research Education Extension Service, disclosed this finding by the Hong Song City Agriculture Association of Korea. The Korean group visited Saipan on a four-day mission, visiting farms on the island. "We have to improve. Otherwise, we are below standards," Cabrera said. "They [trade mission representatives] saw our system. They were comparing Korea and Saipan. Korea is modernized."

Director touts new and improved Immigration

People can expect improved, friendlier, and more efficient services at the Division of Immigration, according to new Immigration director Melvin Grey. Grey, in an interview with the Saipan Tribune, vowed that under his leadership people can see professional Immigration agents and personnel in all regards. "The immigration folks have taken a lot of negative comments in the past. I think it's largely not fair to them," he said. The director explained that with the processing of papers for nonresident workers, other alien cases are coming in.

April 3, 2007

Senate rejects bill lowering power rates

The Senate on Friday rejected a House bill that would reduce power rates in the Commonwealth. House Bill 15-193 was defeated in the Senate after three members voted yes and five voted no. Those who voted in favor of the bill were Sens. Paterno Hocog, Paul A. Manglona, and Pete P. Reyes. Those who voted against the bill were Sen. President Joseph M. Mendiola and Sens. Felix Mendiola, Jude Hofschneider, Henry San Nicolas, and Maria Pangelinan. Sen. Luis Crisostimo abstained. Senate President Mendiola said that setting the rates is the duty of the Public Utilities Commission, which is still being established.

OPA denies appeal in meter installation project bidding

The Office of the Public Auditor yesterday denied an appeal filed by a contractor in the government's water meter installation project. According to Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan, no procurement regulation was violated when the CNMI Water Task Force cancelled a bid for the installation of 7,000 water meters and eventually issued another bid with some changes in the specifications. Reaction Co., the protesting contractor, won the bid that had been cancelled. "OPA finds that the cancellation of IFB 06-GOV-003 was allowable under the CNMI Procurement Regulations. OPA further finds no compelling reason presented to justify OPA ordering the cancellation of IFB 06-GOV-097. Reaction's appeal, therefore, is denied," Sablan said in an 8-page decision.

April 3, 2008

PSS Saipan down to 11 school buses

The Public School System is facing a critical shortage of buses for about a month now, forcing existing buses to make three to four runs each in the morning and afternoon instead of the usual two each way. The PSS, which needs at least 30 buses to make bus riding services run smoothly, only has 18 in its lot. On top of that, seven of those buses are down, leaving only 11 to service all students under the system and forcing buses to make more trips back and forth since the past month.

OPA is owed $6.5M by autonomous agencies

Autonomous agencies owe $6.5 million the Office of the Public Auditor, it was bared as the House of Representatives passed yesterday a bill exempting the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Northern Marianas College from the requirement to contribute 1 percent of their budgets to OPA. Data from OPA showed that OPA has failed to collect a total of $6.5 million in contributions from autonomous agencies since 1996. CUC owes the largest amount at $3.95 million. The Commonwealth Ports Authority follows with a debt of $1.3 million. The NMI Retirement Fund and the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission owe OPA nearly $500,000 apiece. The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation is also behind in payments, owing nearly $300,000.

SVES project results in ANA funding for laptop program

Almost five years ago, 12 students in San Vicente Elementary School's Young Farmers Program participated in a workshop on how to develop a community project, which resulted in the funding of Project Traditional Technology for three years by The Administration for Native Americans for just under half a million dollars.

The training taught the students how to use a tree diagram to identify an issue (the trunk), the causes or reasons for the issue (roots), and the effects on the community because of the issue (leaves). The issues the students came up with were: 1, need for a swimming pool; 2, need for more playground equipment; 3, need for a cover for the basketball court; and 4, the need for laptop computers.

The students voted for the laptop issue as the most important. The students' tree drawings for the laptops identified the cause for not having enough laptops: poor economy, all the laptops went to upper grade students, and an overall lack of resources to purchase laptops for elementary schools. The students put together a presentation that they presented to the Student Council and to the PTA for the purpose of getting support for student laptops for classrooms.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, students in San Vicente Elementary School's Young Farmers Program participate in a workshop on how to develop a community project.

The PTA had some interesting feedback. Many parents and grandparents felt that a lack of technology was not a problem; that in fact, technology was a problem. They pointed out that families no longer eat together because students need to go to hotspots to do their homework. When the families do eat together, it is often interrupted by phone calls, responding to Facebook, and chats. Many seniors are frustrated that they cannot communicate with their grandchildren in their native language, and they are not comfortable communicating using Facebook, text, or chats.

The funded version of Project Traditional Technology meets the needs of both groups. The elementary students will get extra technology, and with that technology they will record their elders' stories. The technology will also be used to research family trees. The overall purpose of Project Traditional Technology is to increase intergenerational communication.

The original group of Young Farmers met with Susan White to receive a plaque in recognition of their efforts toward the project's funding. In the recognition ceremony, White told the students that they were making history as this is the first project funded by ANA that was initiated by students. She also mentioned that ANA administrators in Washington, D.C. are talking about this project, and it is already receiving national attention. So even though these original students will not receive any direct benefits from the project, as it is an elementary school level project and they are now secondary students, they are the pioneers who are directly responsible for preserving stories and genealogies that would otherwise be lost at the passing of the elders. They are also responsible for the increased bonding between students and elders as the two spend time together sharing stories. This project has already spread to the U.S. mainland where an email came in with the subject line of "WOW." The gist of the email from a mainland educator was that his students were a lot more emotional about writing stories about their relatives than the other writing assignments they had worked on. He also said his students are excited about a project to share their stories with CNMI students, and in return to read about stories from islander elders.

The 12 students who started the project are Iyssa Geronimo, Ciaralyn Apostol, Alvin Arcega, Emmanuel Cobacha, Anneli Arcega, Annika Matias, Maria Fleming, Davilyne Hocog, Taishondre Isamu, CJ Patris, Carlene Patris, and Salofi Welch. Also, included is Allan Arcega, who was in 1st grade at the time, and he hung around with his older brother and sister. ***(PR)***

Conservation Innovation Grants announced

HONOLULU—Do you have an innovative conservation approach or technology that other farmers and ranchers in the islands might adopt?

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, an agency under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is announcing availability of Conservation Innovation Grants to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. Applications will be accepted from the Pacific Islands Area including: Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"CIG funds projects targeting innovative on-the-ground conservation, including pilot projects and field demonstrations," said Christine Clarke, acting director for the NRCS Pacific Islands Area. "We encourage all eligible applicants to submit pre-proposals before April 30, 2014."

The purpose of CIG is to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies, while leveraging the Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection in conjunction with agricultural production. CIG projects are expected to lead to the transfer of conservation technologies, management systems, and innovative approaches into NRCS policy, technical manuals, guides, and references, or to the private sector. CIG does not fund research projects and projects intended to test hypotheses. Such projects do not qualify for a CIG award. CIG is used to apply or demonstrate previously proven technology. It is a vehicle to stimulate development and adoption of conservation approaches or technologies that have been studied sufficiently to indicate a high likelihood of success, and that are candidates for eventual technology transfer or institutionalization. CIG promotes sharing of skills, knowledge, technologies, and facilities among communities, governments, and other institutions to ensure that scientific and technological developments are accessible to a wider range of users.

To be eligible for CIG, projects must involve landowners who meet the Environmental Quality Incentives Program eligibility requirements set forth in http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2010-title16/html/USCODE-2010-title16-chap58-subchapIV-partIV-sec3839aa-1.htm. Additional information regarding EQIP eligibility requirements can be found at: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip. Participating producers are not required to have an EQIP contract.

All Office of Management and Budget standard forms necessary for CIG submission are posted at: www.Grants.gov - Forms Repository. Applications for the pre-proposal phase must be received by NRCS before 4pm Hawaii Standard Time on April 30, 2014. NRCS will announce selected pre-proposal applications by May 30, 2014. Selected applicants will then be required to submit a full proposal package to NRCS by 4pm HST on June 30, 2014.

To submit your application electronically, visit Grants.gov-Apply for Grants and follow the instructions. Applicants may also submit applications to the e-mail address below. All applicants who submit electronically are strongly encouraged, but not required to ALSO submit a paper copy to ensure that any potential problems with the electronic submission system do not negatively impact any applications. The address for submitting an application by e-mail is jessica.newpher@hi.usda.gov or jessica.mcarthur@hi.usda.gov.

The address for mailing an application is:

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jessica (Newpher) McArthur, CIG Program Manager

P.O. Box 50004

300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 4-118

Honolulu, HI 96850

Complete details regarding this announcement for CIG funding opportunity can be found on the following web sites: www.grants.gov and http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/pia/programs/financial/cig. To learn more about us, visit www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov. ***(USDA)***

5 Guam Air Guard members arrive home

The last five members of the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) were set to arrive in Guam last night.

The 31-member team was officially activated in July 2013 and departed a month later for Al Udeid, AB, Qatar. They were tasked to support the U.S. Air Force's Air and Space Expeditionary Force mission in Southwest Asia. Their tasking fell under the Air Force Central Command where the airmen were primarily focused on the provision of base defense measures, inclusive of personnel and resource security.

The first two chalks arrived in Guam earlier this month.

"As we celebrate the continued arrivals of our airmen, the Guam National Guard wishes to remind residents of Guam that there are still four soldiers from the 1990th Contingency Contracting Team still deployed as well as soldiers still receiving medical treatment in Hawaii following the recent deployment. Please continue to keep them in your prayers," said a statement from the Guam Air National Guard. ***(PR)***

Mariners warned of hazardous seas after Chile quake

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard is advising the public to remain vigilant of hazardous currents and tidal surges following the earthquake off Chile.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center has issued an advisory with possible sea level changes and strong currents throughout the main Hawaiian Islands, which could be hazardous to swimmers, boaters, and individuals near the shore.

The estimated time of increased currents and sea conditions is approximately 3:30am Wednesday. These conditions can continue for several hours.

The Coast Guard advises all mariners to ensure that their vessels are secured for possible changes in sea conditions and that all individuals use caution when taking part in water activities.

The public should heed all warnings from local first responders and seek updated weather conditions before heading out on the water.

Updated weather conditions will be broadcast on VHF channel 16. ***(USCG)***

HHS awards GovGuam $488K in federal grants

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) has announced that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded the Government of Guam $488,460 in federal grants.

The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services was awarded $446,470 for the Guam Non-Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Program. The funds will be used to support local efforts to reduce non-communicable diseases on Guam, such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, and diabetes. The program also addresses smoking, nutrition, alcohol, physical activity, and obesity.

The Guam Department of Administration was awarded $41,990 for Guam's State Health Insurance Assistance Program. This grant will be used to support efforts to provide free counseling and assistance to Medicare recipients on Guam.

"Many in our community suffer from heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and other non-communicable diseases. The grant for the Non-Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Program will enhance Guam Public Health's efforts to combat these diseases and promote healthier lifestyles among our people. Further, the SHIP grant will provide Public Health with resources to provide counseling and assistance to Medicare recipients and their families. I commend our local agencies for pursuing these grants, and I look forward to them benefiting our community." ***(PR)***

NBG to hold 'Back to Sumay Day'

SANTA RITA, Guam—Naval Base Guam commanding officer Capt. Mike Ward is inviting former residents of Sumay village and their descendants to the fifth annual Back to Sumay Day event on NBG on April 5.

The annual event, coordinated with the Santa Rita Mayor's Office, began in 2010 by then-base commanding officer Capt. Scott Galbreaith with the goal of inviting former residents of the pre-World War II village and their descendents back to the site.

A Mass will be held near the cross of the Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe at the site of the former Sumay church. Following the Mass, attendees will walk to Clipper Landing Park for food, music, cultural dancing entertainment, and a historical display of photos dating back to pre-World War II Sumay.

Sumay village was once known as the "Pearl of the Island" before the war. Evolving from a small fishing village to the agricultural and commercial hub for ships in the mid-1800s, it became an economically rich village by the 1930s. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIV, Issue No. 66

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The NSA metadata debate: Reform the program or kill it?

Last year, after it was revealed that the National Security Agency was indiscriminately scooping up records of Americans' telephone calls under an expansive interpretation of the Patriot Act, President Obama urged the public to relax.

"Nobody is listening to your telephone calls," he said. As for the so-called metadata that was being vacuumed up and stored by the government—the source, destination and duration of calls—the president assured the nation that the program was free of abuses and subject to aggressive oversight.

But since then Obama has "evolved" in response to concern in Congress and the country about a repository of information that potentially could provide a window on the daily lives of millions of U.S. citizens. And last week, the administration announced a new blueprint for the collection of metadata that it wants Congress to enact into law.

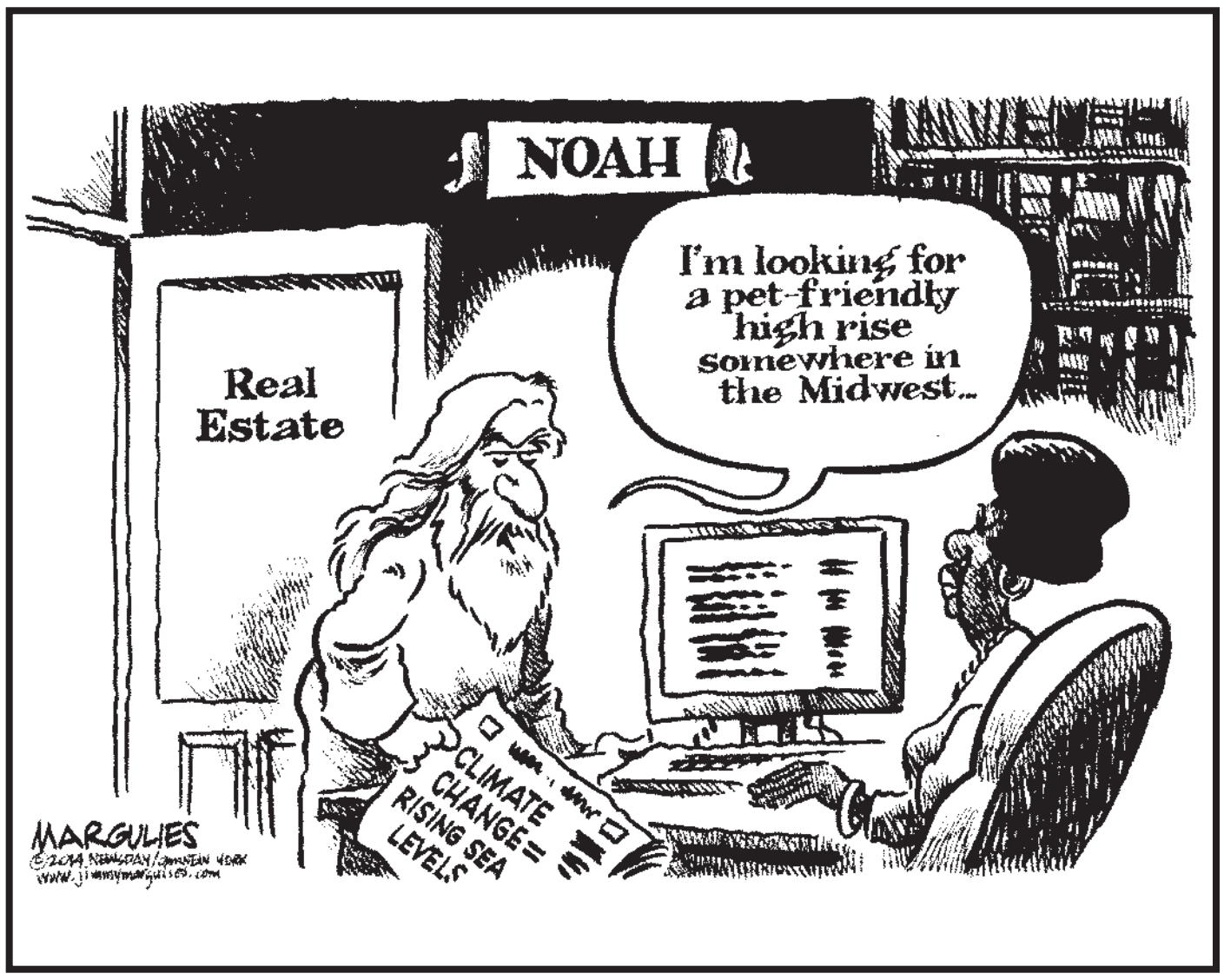
The new program would address the two most common demands of critics: that massive amounts of phone data not be stored for long periods of time by a government agency, and that investigators should not be able to decide for themselves when to search the "haystack" of metadata for the "needle" of telephone numbers possibly linked to terrorist plots.

Under the new arrangement, metadata would be maintained not by the government but by the telephone companies in a format that would make it easy for investigators to "query" or search it, and the database would include records from cellphones as well as land lines. The companies would preserve the records for 18 months, compared to the five years they were kept by the NSA. Finally, Congress would make permanent an interim arrangement under which the government has agreed to seek a court order for every query (except in an emergency).

These are significant reforms, but important details remain to be clarified. For example, the White House says judicial approval for searches of metadata would be based on "national security concerns." That's too vague a formulation; at a minimum, new legislation must require that investigators convince a judge that there is "reasonable, articulable suspicion" that a telephone number to be run through the database is connected to terrorism.

Desirable as these reforms are, they don't address the question of whether even a more privacy-friendly metadata program is necessary to detect terrorist plots. The same presidential advisory group that called for an end to bulk collection of metadata by the government also cast doubt on the usefulness of the program, concluding that information it yielded "was not essential to preventing attacks" and could have been obtained by other means. Perhaps a reformed metadata program is a defensible backstop to other surveillance programs, but Congress needs to scrutinize that proposition.

©2014 Los Angeles Times


NOAH
I'm looking for a pet-friendly high rise somewhere in the Midwest...
Real Estate
CLIMATE CHANGE = RISING SEA LEVELS
MARGULIES

Tomb sweeping day

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

Qing Ming is the local name in China. Next to the lunar New Year, it is the second most important event in the travel calendar as everyone goes "home" to help "sweep" the tomb of revered ancestors, or at least bring food and light incense. Not only does it trigger a harried intra-country travel, it also occasions intense longing from those who do not make it home, especially those outside the sovereign borders.

The frenzied pining to be with one's family is akin to the Jewish "next year in Jerusalem" sentiment, save the focus in the Levant is in honor of the covenant to be the "people of One"; as the "Hajj to Mecca" is the unifying and equalizing surrender to the will of the "No-thing" Allah by a diverse people across the planet. The focus in China is not so much on the individual personality of the ancestor(s) as it is on the health and continuity of the family and clan.

Since the democratization of the individual personality rose, we have turned to individual heroes, sages, exemplars, wise ones, and role models. Shakespearean plays essentially formed the modern Western imagination but it hinges on the tragicomic personality. Individuals in the Western mind lost its cool in the Garden of Eden, thus the assertive personality is tainted, turning the normal "ego" of Freud into a negative number.

The only personality without blemish came to its height in the medieval blessing of Christo Rei on the idolatry of the barefoot child of Nazareth, no longer recognizable as the sandaled carpenter of Galilee but on the enthroned royal Jesus Christ!

I am skipping April Fools Day since we already know it as a year-round observance. "Just consider the establishment of a casino, twice turned down by referendum but suddenly a law by legislative fiat on Saipan," an associate comments. I did not offer a rejoinder but she would not have failed to notice the smirk on my face, along with the sadness of the foolishness of many current efforts in Ukraine, Thailand, Syria, the Koreas, and yes, even in China.

(On the Koreas, one no longer finds it traitorous to ask the legitimate question: "What exactly are we still doing in South Korea?" That is not asked loudly in the CNMI since the Commonwealth's existence is on its value as a strategic military forward position in America's waters to protect it from the Chinese!)

The closest thing to the *Qing Ming* on Saipan is the All Souls' Day/All Saints' Day that usually brings out the paintbrush, the rake, the broom, and the flower vase to the protruding crosses and tombstones by the Chalan Kanoa Cathedral. The vigils also bring out the mahjong tiles, the deck of cards and the candles, along with increased consumption of the national drink, the Bud.

The serious minded goes beyond the rituals of tomb sweeping, recognizes the value of reflecting on the future of humanity, and figures how we sustain ourselves in the planet beyond the survival of the fittest, the close cooperation of those in similar covenants, the fidelity of those considered faithful, and the future of clan and family.

The family of humankind has come to the fore in our time, and though we now consume more than the carrying capacity of the planet, the multiplication table remains open. China just revised its one-child family policy, Japan rues its aging population, and Denmark has made it patriotic for its ethnic natives to have more sex!

"How shall the future generation live?" was the only ethical question in my book during the heyday of my student activism, and the question fundamentally remains the same even as it gets refined, or gets heavier emphasis.

So on this tomb-sweeping day Sunday, April 5 in Sino land, the focus no longer on the grandeur of ancestor as it is of their contribution on how the future generation is going to live. Xi Jin Ping sold China to EU in his just concluded 10-day tour of the Netherlands, France, Germany, and Belgium, that the China of today and tomorrow is geared toward trade, which requires peace. He even wore his Zhongguo tunic (no necktie, *ala* Mao and Nehru) in his last night dinner with Belgian royalty. The chubby panda is gentle and his signature is on that dotted line!

Meanwhile, the domestic scene of that trade machine is a dance of many sways and footsteps. A Han-dominated ethnic stew of 56 nationalities is going to determine how the China of diversity answers the question of the future generation's survival. Varied cultural colors supersede the singular renminbi bottom line. Europe and the Americas face similar challenge.

What is loud and clear around the world is that ethnic nationalism is passé. Being an American as a political option is collaborative in diversity rather than protective of ethnic and cultural purity. That's Alabama calling Obama one of its own. Pride is moving out of national colors into humanity's continuing dependence on a severely overtaxed planet. Our unity in diversity, *e pluribus unum,* counts. Or, as diversity with Chinese characteristics would add, "in harmony."

Hinanau Tautau-ta

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Ha totpe hit manadan diskuidu pot diskuidu-ta. Taya` otru para tafa` segne sa` hita gumugu`ot timon yan layag galaide`ta. Deste 1978 ta tutuhon gumubietnan maisa hit. I chinatsaga-ta na tiempu puru ginen diskuidun sanhalom.

Presisu ta komprende na este i para ta gobietnan maisa hit sumasaunau satton yan fitme na disposision kahan iya Marianas. Sottau mampos mañan man-ma`gasta ayu mina sumen loka` dibin gobietnon iya Marianas. Pot todu, mas esta i dibi ke Un Biyon Pesus.

Gi mismu tiempu, este na dibi gumotden te`chuñg kinalamten gobietnota sa` tai kampu kumalamten para u adelanta ha`anen tautauña siha. Estague` defektu na dañkulu mina` sumen chatsaga i tanu`.

Lastima sa` puru diskuidun mahasñgune mayute` gi un` banda asuntota siha ni man-sabiun hegsu` I Deni`. Ha gacha` hit induktu na ni para tafan seha taya` kampu.

Gueku na kinimite

Yangin diberas man-mehnalom i man-ma`gasta, pues libianu maplaneha sustansiau siha na programa para adelantun linahyan. Lau puru mahakot supen tasi, che`chu` chapuseru (deceipt) `nai mablañkeha (hurled) pattisipasion sudadanu kontra sekretu na lai casino.

Pot ihemplo: Ekonomia i primera problema lau taya` adelantau na programa pot este. Lau guaha lai pot maprohiben kasunes famalao`an giya Garapan yan pot gayera. Dios mihu na nina`tatah yan chagu` gi asuntun dichu asuntun linahyan.

Dispues, man-mahegat mañgandidatu ta`lu. Yahu umekuñgog haf` otru para umapega gi sekus niha na biahe fuera de doli na "biba". Yangin parehu che`chu` niyok na`gao pues po`lu dialu estake hokog fuetsan kabesan mame.

Hagu` mona pasumu

Hu tuñgu yan komprende kabales pinadesen todus na biahe. Esta na` tañga i a`gang esalau publiku gi silensiun dispues de lemlem tautau ni pumadedese dañkulu na sapet yan chinatsaga.

Gi mismu tiempu gaige gi dos patman kanai miyu i primera atmas `nai siña in` cheneg tinilaika na biahe. Yangin ti in`chegue este pues mana`lu tatte gi taimanu pa`gu. Hagu` mona pasumu ya un` saunau mamatinas tinilaika pa`gu na eleksion.

■ ■ ■

Parehu i tafafana` yan estorian peskadot. `Nai ha hatme antiosña para u li`uf dañkulu na piniligru ha fafana`. Entre tituge yan halu`u para u fana` `nai ha tutuhon fumisga lagua, gualafe, mamulan, guile, tataga` yan otru siha man-mañge` na guihan.

Yangin tiha yute`gue` lumi`uf pues ti u kone` lokue` manpaire siha na guihan. Kulan hagu ni botadot debi un` famatinas disision sakrifisiu gi tinas na manera haf` un` tatañga na biahen eleksion. Muñga mana` lastima botumu lumailai gi hilu` boten destrosiu. Yute hau halom gi taduñg ya un` tutuhon kumone` i manpaire siha na guihan.

Otru asuntota

Bai` tutuhon man-hoka palabrata siha ni ti sessu esta tana` setbe pot buente taigue gi usuta diariu. Pot ihemplo: Hu "disembra" i hinafothu simiya gi alacha. Gi biradahu hu "dispoñga" tinanom tumates yan pipinu.

I primet palabra kumeke ilegña un` tanume ta`lu ayu na patte `nai ti doku` i simiya. I segundu `nai un` lapbun sinisun `lamegai na ramas ni ti man-presisu. Dispues hu digueya i poya para katdu yan amotsan talo`ane. Haf` mohon?

Pot relihion Johovah

Estaba dos hobensita gi trañkan i kelat i gima` sige mandakot. Era, para bai` mana`e fina` materiat mantuge` pot relihion niha Jehovah.

Hu tamtam kinemprenden niha `nai hu faisen kuantu yuus niha yan kau siña i tautau ha setbe dos amu. Man-ginacha` induktu ni kuestion. Mamente pot si Sodom yan Gamorrah, ni umestablese relihion Jehovah. Hu na`yan na kau ti siha i dos i man-dinestrosia as Yuus Tata? Ti ma-oppe kuestionhu.

Hu faisen manu gi dos kumuentos gi tatten troñku, ayu na troñku `nai imadiñgan si Yuus Tata. Ti siña ma-oppeyu`. Los uttimu, hu sañgane para u fan para man-mattu sa` Katolikuyu`.

Yangin deste primet relihion niha ti madanche sustansian Yuus Tata yan haf` tinago`ña, guaha mohon chansa na umadanche ineyag niha gi segundu relihion? Trabiha i kinahulu` atdau gaige ha` gi sanhaya, dispues tumunog gi sanlagu. Parehu yan relihionhu, fitme yan ti umatulaika!

■ ■ ■

Pot grasia, kumuentos un` amigon mame gi lamasan maneskada haf` hinassoña pot fakterian magagu. Tinagam ni otru `nai finaisen, "Ennau i pa`gu un`sasañgan. Hinassomu `nau pat hiniñgogmu otru lugat ya un`sasañgan pa`gu?" Ai na grasia `nai duru ha defendegue`.

■ ■ ■

Un` pitbetsu ha faisen si madre gi dottrina kau todu i lugat `nai gaige si Yuus. Ineppe as madre na huñgan. "Kontodu i lanchun mame?" Ineppe ta`lu huñgan.

Ilegña i patgon: "Pues mandage hau sistet sa` taya` lanchun mame!" Dios mihu!

■ ■ ■

Malolofan un` prohimu gi tatten simienteyu `nai ha repara i mantuge` "RIP" gi tablon kilu`us. Sige ha ke pula` haf` kumeke ilegña. Ha totpe un` pitbesu ya sinañgane, "Rise If Possible". A` Saina!

■ ■ ■

Ayu mas na`chaleg un` amku` ni sige ha sinset na`aña gi oran las dos gi chatagmag gi tablon simientu. Mattu dos bulacheru ya mafaisen hafa bidadaña, ilegña, "Huna` keke dinanche na`anhu sa` esta trenta añosyu` deste ke matai ya ni unu muna` keke dinanche madiletran apuyiduhu". Dios mihu!

It's no surprise we can't find Flight 370

By DAVID HELVARG
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Jet aircraft are large, but not compared with the ocean. The weeks-long search for some physical sign of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 is not something we should wonder at, considering the frontier nature of our blue planet.

The 29 percent of our planet that is land is inhabited by more than 7 billion of our species, at least a few of whom would have reported a crash or hijacked aircraft. By contrast, the ocean that covers 71 percent of the Earth's surface and 97 percent of its living habitat rarely has more than a few million people on or about its surface. These include commercial mariners, fishermen, cruise ship passengers, sailors aboard the world's military fleets, offshore oil and gas workers, research scientists and the odd sea gypsy.

One reason we've not colonized the ocean, as science-fiction writers (and at least one senator, the late Claiborne Pell, of Rhode Island) once imagined, is that the ocean is a far rougher and more difficult wilderness than any encountered by terrestrial explorers, or even astronauts traveling in the consistent vacuum of space, with its occasional meteorites and space junk to avoid.

The sea pummels us with an unbreathable and corrosive liquid medium; altered visual and acoustic characteristics; changing temperatures, depths and pressures; upwellings; tides; currents; gyres; obscuring marine layers; sudden storms and giant rouge waves; and life forms than can sting, poison or bite.

Even accounting for more than 70 years of classified military hydrographic surveys, we've still mapped less than 10 percent of the ocean with the resolution we've used to map all of the moon, Mars or even several moons of Jupiter.

Obviously, our ability to search for a missing aircraft at sea has come a long way since Amelia Earhart disappeared while trying to cross the Pacific in 1937. But the patched-together satellite data and electronic-signals processing that has so far pointed the Flight 370 search to an area 1,800 miles from Perth, Australia, is no more than a crisis-mode, jury-rigged, extraordinary effort. Consider this: If you're a drug smuggler and you enter U.S. coastal waters in a speedboat at night, and then go dead in the water during the day, with a blue tarp thrown over your vessel, odds are that you'll successfully deliver your contraband.

Our investment in ocean exploration, monitoring and law enforcement efforts is at a 20-year low in the United States and not much better elsewhere. Our chances of quickly finding the missing Malaysian flight would have been improved if we had invested more money and effort on our planet's last great commons, with observational tools such as in-situ labs and wired benthic observatories, remote and autonomous underwater vehicles and gliders, forward-looking infrared cameras and multi-beam shipboard, airborne (and space-deployed) scanning systems, and other smart but woefully underfunded sea technologies.

The fact remains that while hundreds of people have gone into space, only three humans have ventured to the lowest point on our planet seven miles down in the Mariana Trench, and the latest of these—filmmaker explorer engineer James Cameron—had to self-fund his 2012 mission.

Meanwhile, when it comes to exploring the cosmos, NASA—even in its diminished state—outspends NOAA's ocean exploration program roughly 1,000 to 1. Yet when we get to Mars, the first thing we seek as proof of life is water. Meanwhile, we have a whole water planet that remains a challenge we've once again discovered to be far greater than we thought.

Whatever the final resolution of the Flight 370 tragedy, that challenge is bound to become greater as our food and coastal security, marine transportation systems, even our basic ecosystem processes such as the oxygen generated by ocean plankton, are increasingly stressed through overfishing, pollution, loss of coastal habitat and ocean impacts from climate change.

Investing in the exploration and understanding of our planet's largest habitat should be a given. Perhaps that will be a lesson learned from our latest human disaster. Unfortunately, while the sea is still vast, our ability to act wisely in our own interests is often limited.

David Helvarg is executive director of Blue Frontier, a marine conservation and policy group. His latest book is The Golden Shore: California's Love Affair With the Sea. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Hoping against hope: It's a people thing

By ROBERT M. SAPOLSKY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The defining feature of human brains is the size and complexity of the cortex, which provides the underpinnings of rationality for our actions. But just because we have more developed cortexes doesn't mean we are always rational decision-makers. We humans constantly find ourselves loving the wrong person, buying things we don't have the money for and believing that fad diets consisting of nothing but sundaes will work.

To be human is to hope against hope.

When it comes to decision-making and risk assessment, we tend to think in an asymmetrical manner that feeds an optimistic outlook and denies discouragement. This has been shown in recent work by Christina Moutsiana and colleagues at University College London and published in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

In their study, the researchers asked test subjects to estimate the likelihood of something desirable happening to them. "There's a 10 percent chance," a subject might answer. If the researchers then told the subject that the odds were actually higher—say that there was actually a 20 percent chance of the desirable outcome—the subject was usually quick to adjust his own chances upward to 20 percent too. So far, he's behaving rationally: The subject has rationally updated his estimate based on feedback.

But if, after the subject gave his initial answer of 10 percent, the researcher provided bad news, explaining that actually the odds were more like 5 percent, the test subject was less likely to adjust his original estimate, apparently believing that somehow his own chances were better than average.

Humans believe in luck: in their good-luck charms, their lucky numbers, their lucky underwear, even. We resist updating assessments when the feedback is bad but are eager and adept at making upward adjustments when the feedback is good.

That cognitive asymmetry of hope is so pervasive in humans that its exception is considered a disease: clinical depression. Cognitive-behavioral therapists have long framed depression as a disorder of cognitive distortions. A person irrationally believes that because she once experienced a real trauma of having failed, or of having been rejected or abandoned, she then has trouble believing in the likelihood of ever having success or strong, happy relationships. In other words, the depressed person is resistant to updating expectations, even when the feedback is good, instead malignantly embracing bad feedback until it marinates every neuron.

Yet despite this picture of depression as pathological distortion, considerable research has shown that individuals suffering from depression are often more accurate in their assessment of the world than are healthy control subjects. "Sadder but wiser," as the jargon goes. Depression might also be seen, then, as a failure of the human capacity for denial and self-deception. It is the healthy who are neuropsychologically distortive in this realm.

For those counted among the affectively healthy, hope is sustaining. We are able to ignore the reality of death, believing on some level that we and those who matter most to us will live forever—or at least lead happy and healthy lives before dying painlessly at a ripe old age. We believe our love will be requited, our efforts rewarded, and that nothing bad would ever happen to Bambi's mother in real life.

And then, during a week like this last one, we realize with an aching sadness how much we'd been quietly holding out for the news that somewhere, on an uncharted landing-strip-long island in the south Indian Ocean, 239 people were safely waiting to rejoin their loved ones.

Robert M. Sapolsky is a professor of neuroscience at Stanford University and the author of A Primate's Memoir, *among other books. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

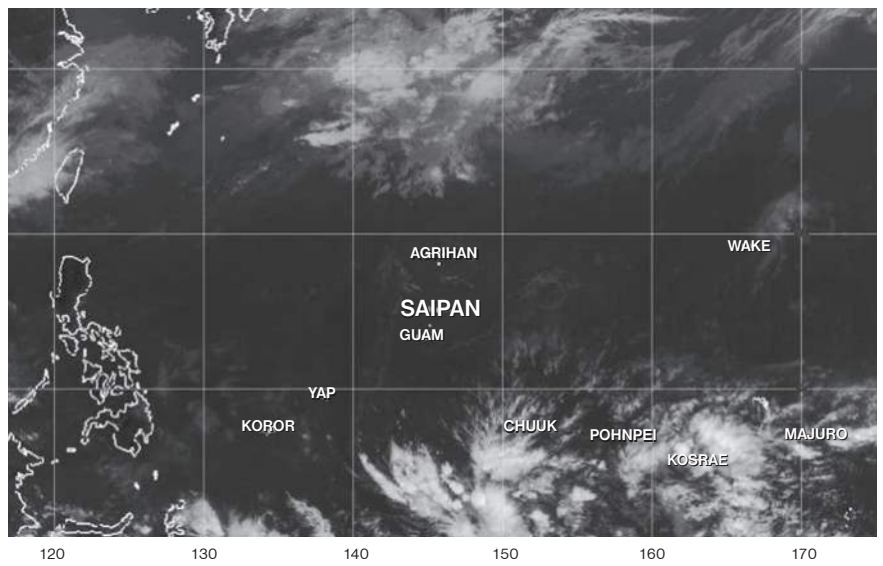
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲90	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼60
Beijing	Sunny	▲75	▼43
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼65
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼72
London	Cloudy	▲64	▼45
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼52
Manila	Sunny	▲93	▼76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼55
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼71
New York	Showers	▲55	▼42
Osaka	Rain	▲56	▼39
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼47
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼42
Rome	Showers	▲61	▼50
Salem	Showers	▲58	▼43
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲58	▼49
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲54	▼37
Tokyo	Showers	▲64	▼45
Washington, DC	Showers	▲68	▼52

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low-level convergence south of a warm front is causing scattered showers north of the Marianas between 25N and 22N from 140E to 148E. A stationary front curves westward from 25N163E to 23N155E to beyond 25N at 150E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are taking place over Minami Tori Shima along and up to 170 miles north of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 1N130E through a tropical disturbance centered south of Chuuk near 3N151E to end at EQ163E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring southwest of Koror south of a line from 3N130E to 1N135E farther east. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located well south of the Marianas and primarily south of Chuuk between 8N and the equator from 141E to 157E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over Kosrae state between 9N and the equator from 159E to 169E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms mainly east of the Marshall Islands between 10N and 5N from 172E to the date line. A weak trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers near Wake Island between 22N and 17N from 167E to 171E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:07 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
10:27 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
5:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:11 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:10 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:39 AM	9:43 PM
Friday	9:28 AM	10:35 PM
Saturday	10:17 AM	11:25 PM
Sunday	11:07 AM	
Monday	11:56 AM	12:13 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	6:55pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	7:45pm	8:35pm	2, 6
UA5078	8:10pm	9:00pm	3

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	5:35pm	6:10pm	2, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	6:40pm	7:15pm	2, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11: 05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5038	5:35pm	7:15pm	2, 6 via Rota
UA5077	6:50pm	7:40pm	3

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	6:55pm	7:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	8:00pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:45am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5039	9:55am	6:25pm	7 via Guam
UA190/5038	9:55am	7:15pm	6 via Rota-Guam
UA190/5077	9:55am	7:40pm	3 via Guam
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA184/5038	10:25pm	7:15pm+1	1 via Rota-Guam
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/5038	11:30pm	7:15pm+1	5 via Rota-Guam

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Customers First
TRIPLE J

SUPER SPRING TRUCKLOAD SALE!

OPEN:
Thursday & Friday
11am to 7pm
Saturday
9am to 7pm
THIS WEEKEND ONLY

Presto Kitchen Kettle
Now Only $43.95

Presto Cool Touch Griddle
Now Only $44.95

Hamilton Beach Wave Station Express Dispensing Blender
Now Only $35.95

Kenmore 21cu.ft. Refrigerator
Now Only $869.95

Kenmore 3.3cu.ft. Compact Refrigerator
Now Only $179.95

Kenmore 5cu.ft. Freezer
Now Only $319.95

Galanz 10-Cup Rice Cooker
Now Only $29.95

Galanz 4-Cup Rice Cooker
Now Only $24.95

Folding Lounge Chair
Now Only $26.95

Stor 4-Shelf Pine
Now Only $34.95

Lifetime 6ft Picnic Table
Now Only $229.95

Easter Baskets
Starting at $9.95

Igloo Island Breeze 28qt Cooler
Now Only $26.95

Northwest Territory 5ft Blow Mold Table
Now Only $54.95

Bathmat 2.5x1.5
Now Only $4.95

Huangshi 3pc Bathroom Carpet
Now Only $9.95

Craftsman 17" Toolbox
Now Only $11.95

Garden Elite 100ft. Light Duty Garden Hose
Now Only $18.95

Champions Breed Dog Food 40#
Now Only $29.95

Kenmore Comfort 20" Box Fan
Now Only $25.95

Customers First TRIPLE J FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS SAIPAN

Come and visit us at the Triple J Wholesale Store
We reserve the right to limit quantity purchases on all items.

For more info, please call: 322-0430

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Customers First TRIPLE J

TRUCKLOAD SALE direct from KMART

AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS! • OPEN: Thursday and Friday 11am to 7pm • Saturday 9am to 7pm

LG Blu-Ray Player 3D with WiFi
$123.95

LG 32" LED TV
$499.95

RCA Home Theater Sound Bar with Subwoofer
$179.95

Westinghouse 60" Full HD 1080P TV
$1195.95

Samsung 51" PDP HDTV
$899.95

Nakamichi 780 Headphones
$24.95

Belkin N300 WiFi Router
$59.95

Canon Pixma Printer
$89.95

HP K1500 Keyboard
$14.95

$19.95 Essential Home 10x27 Float Frame

Essential Home 27x40 Helena Collage Frame
$18.95

Essential Home Whitney 5pc Dining Set
$179.95

Essential Home Two Twin Convertible Bunk Bed
$259.95

Essential Home Bedford Entertainment Center
$279.95

Essential Home Payton Twin Over Click Clack
$365.95

Essential Home Belmont 4-Drawer Dresser
$69.95

Essential Home Malcolm Bonded Leather Rocker Recliner
$279.95

Beginnings By Sauder 5-Shelf Bookcase
$37.95

Beginnings By Sauder Computer Table
$59.95

SUPER SPRING TRUCKLOAD SALE!

Hampton Forge 48pc Gourmet Kitchen Starter Set
$39.95

Sandra Lee 5.5qt Cast Iron Dutch Oven
$59.95

Essential Home 14pc Cookware Set
$45.95

BBQ Pro Barrel Grill
$94.95

Royal Oak 16.6lbs Premium Charcoal
$7.95

BBQ Pro 18.5" Square Kettle Grill
$33.95

Easy Reach Ultra Light 2-Step Stool
$35.95

Health-O-Meter Professional Dial Scale
$25.95

Shark Steam Mop
$59.95

Libbey Martello 16pc Glassware Set
$22.95

Mr. Coffee Single Cup Brewing System
$119.95

Mr. Coffee 12 Cup Switch Coffeemaker
$26.95

Black & Decker Ergo 3-Cup Chopper
$29.95

Jack La Lanne Power Juicer
$139.95

Kenmore Digital Bread Maker
$79.95

Proctor Silex 2-Slice Toaster (Cool Wall Sides)
$19.95

Corelle Livingware 16pc Memphis Plate Set
$49.95

Essential Home 16pc Dinnerware Set
$39.95

Kenmore Bagless Upright Vacuum
$79.95

Weslo Pro 11.2X Recumbent Bike
$289.95

Homelite 2700PSI Pressure Washer
$429.95

Kidnic Table
$59.95

Customers First TRIPLE J FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS SAIPAN

Come and visit us at the Triple J Wholesale Store

We reserve the right to limit quantity purchases on all items.

For more info, please call: 322-0430

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Sailors from the guided-missile cruiser USS *Cowpens* watch over students playing on the monkey bars as part of the After School Programs In Recreation & Enrichment program at Marcial A. Sablan Elementary School in Agat on March 28.

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Ship's Serviceman Seaman (SW) Karl Bullock, of the guided-missile cruiser USS *Cowpens*, helps a student on the swing during a community relations event at Marcial A. Sablan Elementary School in Agat on March 28.

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Damage Controlman Fireman Kyle McKenna, of the guided-missile cruiser USS *Cowpens*, plays kickball with students participating in the After School Programs In Recreation & Enrichment program at Marcial A. Sablan Elementary School in Agat on March 28.

Cowpens sailors volunteer at Guam school

AGAT, Guam—Sailors from the forward-deployed guided-missile cruiser USS *Cowpens* participated in a community relations event at Marcial A. Sablan Elementary School in Agat while the ship was in port in Guam on March 28.

Service members were treated to a Chamorro fiesta-style lunch before they tutored and mingled with students enrolled in the After School Programs In Recreation & Enrichment (ASPIRE).

"I personally feel like I learn a lot about wherever I go when I do the COMREL events and help volunteer," said Information Systems Technician 3rd Class (SW) Justin Puckett.

"I love seeing new stuff so this is always cool. I love food too, so trying local food is always a lot of fun."

This was the ship's second community relations project on island in less than a year. In December 2013, *Cowpens* sailors volunteered at the same school to discuss their careers and experiences with students.

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (SW/IDW) Edward Losongco said the visits were personal for him because he grew up in Guam before moving off-island as a child.

"It's really good being here," he said. "Anytime you get to come back to your hometown is always fun."

School counselor Marie Balbin thanked the sailors for their willingness to lend a helping hand at the school and said these partnerships strengthen the relationships between the Navy and Guam communities.

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Alyssa Hilzinger and her shipmates from the guided-missile cruiser USS *Cowpens* tutor students participating in the After School Programs In Recreation & Enrichment program at Marcial A. Sablan Elementary School in Agat on March 28.

"It's something I feel just the military coming out and sharing their skills and all the things that they do for the United States as a whole is really something good to help our students learn more about," she said. "I think it's very nice and I think it's important that they continue to link with us. The community as well is very grateful for them and all that they do."

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Damage Controlman 1st Class (SW) David Willis, of the guided-missile cruiser USS *Cowpens*, talks to students participating in the After School Programs In Recreation & Enrichment program at Marcial A. Sablan Elementary School in Agat on March 28.

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Sailors from the guided-missile cruiser USS *Cowpens* celebrate Chamorro Month with a fiesta-style lunch hosted by the faculty, staff, and students of Marcial A. Sablan Elementary School in Agat on March 28.

Business

Under fire: GM's Barra deflects hard questions

AP

General Motors CEO Mary Barra testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, April 1, 2014, before the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation.

WASHINGTON (AP)—General Motors CEO Mary Barra didn't squirm on the hot seat Tuesday. On the job less than three months, she calmly answered or deflected tough questions from a congressional committee about faulty parts responsible for at least 13 deaths and the recall of 2.6 million cars.

Barra frustrated lawmakers by fending off questions, saying she was awaiting the results of an internal GM investigation. She didn't know why GM waited more than a decade to recall cars it knew had defective ignition switches. She didn't know who was responsible for the decisions that delayed the recall.

But experts on corporate damage control said she didn't have much choice and gave her high marks for her performance on the hot seat.

"Barra's rope-a-dope is the best of GM's bad options today," said Washington crisis management consultant Eric Denzenhall. "There isn't a corporate lawyer in the country that's going to allow her to engage in freelance speculation about things she doesn't know yet. No, that's not satisfying to the public and media, but the alternative is much worse."

Investors shrugged. General Motors Co. stock, down more than 7 percent since March 11, barely budged Tuesday, slipping 8 cents to $34.34.

Barra apologized for GM's slowness in warning customers about the problems and promised to change the automaker's culture to put a new emphasis on safety. "Barra held her ground, claiming that today's General Motors is a different company from the one whose corporate culture allowed this issue to fester for a decade," said Jack Nerad, executive editorial director Kelley Blue Book.

Ken and Jayne Rimer, whose daughter died in a 2006 accident after a faulty switch prevented airbags from deploying, found Barra's testimony incomplete. For Barra "not to have any answers" after about three months as CEO was unsatisfactory, Ken Rimer said in the hallway outside the hearing room. "It surprised me how unprofessional that was," he said.

Congressional appearances can be a minefield for CEOs. In 2008, automaker CEOs drew public scorn for flying corporate jets to Washington to ask for a government bailout. And Wall Street CEOs were battered in hearings after the financial crisis.

But some lawmakers appeared somewhat more sympathetic to Barra, who was thrust into a crisis after becoming the first woman CEO of a major automaker in January.

Samsung: Patents developed by Google engineers

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Samsung fired back at Apple's accusations of patent theft Tuesday, saying the South Korean tech giant didn't write any of the Android software on its smartphones and tablets, Google did.

"Not one of the accused features on this phone was designed, much less copied, by anyone at Samsung," Samsung attorney Peter Quinn said. "The accused features on this phone were developed independently by some of the software engineers at Google, up the road in Mountain View."

The finger-pointing took place in U.S. District Court in San Jose, where Apple Inc. and Samsung Electronics Co. are accusing each other of stealing ideas from each other. At stake: more than $2 billion if Samsung loses, about $6 million if Apple loses.

On opening day, Google Inc.—which is not named in the litigation—was clearly a large part of it.

The trial marks the latest round in a long-running, worldwide series of lawsuits between Apple and Samsung over mobile devices.

Quinn told jurors that Apple's gripe is with Android, a Google-developed smartphone operating system that now makes up about 70 percent of the global market.

Apple's lawyer Harold McElhinny had anticipated the tactic.

"Don't be misled by that," he said in his opening statement. "This case is not about Google. It is Samsung that has made the decision to copy these features, it is Samsung, not Google, that chooses to put these features into their phones, and it is Samsung that has made the decision to keep on infringing on Apple's patents."

Obama signs bill temporarily fixing Medicare fees

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama Tuesday signed into law legislation to give doctors temporary relief from a flawed Medicare payment formula that threatened them with a 24 percent cut in their fees.

A 64-35 Senate vote Monday cleared the measure through Congress.

The $21 billion bill would stave off a 24 percent cut in Medicare reimbursements to doctors for a year and extend dozens of other expiring health care provisions, such as higher payment rates for rural hospitals. The legislation is paid for by cuts to health care providers, but fully half of the cuts won't kick in for 10 years.

It's the seventeenth temporary "patch" to a broken payment formula that dates to 1997 and comes after lawmakers failed to reach a deal on financing a permanent fix.

The measure passed the House last week.

There's widespread agreement on bipartisan legislation to redesign the payment formula that would give doctors 0.5 percent annual fee increases and implement changes aimed at giving doctors incentives to provide less costly care. But there's no agreement on how to pay the approximately $140 billion cost of scrapping the old formula.

"We just don't have the votes right now to fix this problem for good," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who negotiated the measure with House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio. "For the millions of elderly Americans and their doctors this fix is good news. It means the promise of accessible, quality health care to our nation's seniors is being honored for another year."

Nation

Health care sign-ups surge—will they save Dems?

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mocking his critics, President Barack Obama boasted Tuesday that 7.1 million people have signed up for his health care law, an unexpected comeback after a disastrous rollout sent his poll numbers plummeting and stirred fears among Democrats facing reelection this fall.

"The debate over repealing this law is over," he declared.

Despite lingering problems with the website, a late wave of enrollments pushed sign-ups higher than critics and even the White House had believed possible. Still, the administration hasn't determined how many of those people have closed the deal by paying their first month's premiums. Also unclear is how many were previously uninsured—the real test of Obama's health care overhaul. The law also expanded coverage for low-income people through Medicaid, but only about half of the states have agreed to implement that option.

The administration also hasn't yet released an updated demographic breakdown of enrollees, such as the number of younger people whose participation is critical to the law's success.

The late enrollment surge may do little to change the political dynamics heading into the midterm elections, particularly for Democrats running in conservative states where the health law and the president himself remain deeply unpopular. Even Obama's advisers acknowledge that the public's views on the law are unlikely to shift significantly between now and November.

Still, with millions of people now receiving health benefits under the law, Democrats see an opportunity to undercut Republicans still pushing to repeal "Obamacare." And GOP lawmakers, wary of overplaying their political hand, are indeed grappling with whether to press forward with repeal or narrow their focus on replacing the law with different health measures.

In a preview of his party's midterm messaging, Obama declared that while the health law isn't perfect, "the Affordable Care Act is here to stay."

"Why are folks working so hard for people to not have health insurance? Why are they so mad about the idea of people having health insurance?" he asked a group of administration officials and supportive members of Congress in the White House Rose Garden.

Underscoring his point, Obama quoted from letters he said he had received from people helped by the law. But Republicans responded in a new round of their own quotes from people complaining about rapidly rising rates.

Texas pushes to keep execution drug source secret

HOUSTON (AP)—Two days before Texas is set to execute its first inmate with a new batch of drugs, the state prison agency remained determined Tuesday to keep its supplier a secret, citing threats of violence to pharmacies that sell drugs used in lethal injections.

Since obtaining a new supply of the drug pentobarbital two weeks ago, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice had cited unspecified security concerns in refusing to disclose the source and other details about the sedative it plans to use to put inmates to death.

But in a brief filed Tuesday with the state attorney general's office, Patricia Fleming, an assistant general counsel for the Texas prison system, argued that a supplier in another state received a specific threat of physical violence.

"An individual threatened to blow up a truck full of fertilizer outside a pharmacy supplying substances to be used in executions," Fleming wrote.

As such, she argued, an open-records request filed by an attorney for a condemned inmate seeking the drugmaker's identity should not be granted.

Questions about the source of drugs used by states to carry out lethal injections have arisen in several states in recent months as numerous drugmakers - particularly in Europe, where opposition is strongest to capital punishment - have refused to sell their products if they will be used to carry out executions.

That has led several U.S. prison systems to compounding pharmacies, which are not as heavily regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as more conventional pharmacies.

A batch of pentobarbital Texas purchased from such a compounding pharmacy in suburban Houston expired at the end of March. That pharmacy refused to sell the state any more drugs, citing threats it received after its name was made public. That led Texas to its new, undisclosed suppler.

An attorney for inmate Ramiro Hernandez-Llanas, set to die later this month, had filed an open-records request with the Department of Criminal Justice March 11 seeking the name of that supplier. The agency had until March 25 to either provide the records, set a specific date to provide them or seek a decision from the attorney general's office that would allow it to withhold the information.

In three past such opinions, the attorney general's office has directed the agency to release records about its lethal injection drugs. Fleming, in the request filed Tuesday, argued that circumstances have changed since 2012, the last time the attorney general's office said the information should be disclosed.

ACROSS THE NATION

Washington mudslide death toll climbs to 28

ARLINGTON, Wash. (AP)—The official death toll from Washington state's mudslide has increased to 28, and the Snohomish County medical examiner's office says 22 of those victims have been identified. That's up from 27 dead with 19 identified Tuesday morning. The latest names added to the victims list are 65-year-old Thom E. Satterlee, 60-year-old Lon E. Slauson and 23-year-old Adam Farnes. Like the rest, they died of blunt force injuries suffered in the March 22 slide northeast of Seattle. Satterlee and Slauson had been on the missing list. Officials say the number of people who are missing now stands at 20. Officials say receding floodwaters near the rural community of Oso are helping in the search for human remains by exposing more sites that can be examined.

California's $425M Powerball winner comes forward

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The sole winner of February's $425 million Powerball jackpot came forward to claim his prize Tuesday. California Lottery officials said B. Raymond Buxton, a Northern California man, claimed the prize at the California Lottery headquarters in Sacramento. " `Unbelievable!' is all I could muster," Buxton said in a statement on Tuesday. "Once the initial shock passed, I couldn't sleep for days." After the winning numbers were announced, Buxton said, he sat in front of his computer in disbelief, checking and rechecking his ticket—and telling no one else that he had won. "Sitting on a ticket of this value was very scary," he said.

Asia

Malaysia police: Jet mystery may never be solved

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The investigation into what happened to Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 may take a long time and may never determine the cause of the tragedy, Malaysia's national police chief warned Wednesday.

Khalid Abu Bakar said the criminal investigation was still focused on four areas - hijacking, sabotage and personal or psychological problems of those on board the plane.

"Investigations may go on and on and on. We have to clear every little thing," Khalid said. "At the end of the investigations, we may not even know the real cause. We may not even know the reason for this incident."

The plane disappeared March 8 on a flight to Beijing from Kuala Lumpur with 239 on board. No trace of the plane has been found, although searchers are now focused on a crash site in the southern Indian Ocean.

Khalid said that police had conducted more than 170 interviews with family members of the pilots and crew members. "We must be very thorough and we need all the time ... you cannot hurry us," he said.

Police are also investigating the cargo and even the food served on the plane to eliminate possible sabotage, he said.

Relatives of the passengers have been critical of the handling of the search for the plane, especially as the focus of the hunt has shifted. After experts analyzed the limited radar and satellite data from the plane, the search area was moved from the seas off Vietnam, to several areas in the Indian Ocean west of Australia, and finally to a 221,000-square-kilometer (85,000-square-mile) area roughly a 2 1/2-hour flight from Perth.

The search resumed Wednesday, with the first of nine planes heading out to the search zone, about 1,500 kilometers (930 miles) west of Perth, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said. Nine ships also were scouring the area.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott reiterated his commitment to the search ahead of meeting his Malaysian counterpart Najib Razak later Wednesday in Perth.

"Look, it's one of the great mysteries of our time," Abbott told Perth Radio 6iX. "It's a terrible tragedy. There are 239 devastated families. ... We owe it to the world, we owe it to those families to do whatever we reasonably can do get to the bottom of this."

Najib's trip to Perth also will include a visit to the joint agency coordinating the multinational search effort.

Angus Houston, who heads the agency, said there no time frame has been set for the search for wreckage to end.

Japan lab says stem cell research falsified

TOKYO (AP)—The finding that a lead researcher falsified data in a widely heralded stem-cell research paper is a setback for Japan's efforts to promote its advanced research, but also a symptom of the pressure for breakthroughs in the field, experts say.

The government-funded Riken Center for Development Biology in Kobe, western Japan said Tuesday it had found malpractice by scientist Haruko Obokata in the work on using a simple lab procedure to grow tissue for treating illnesses such as diabetes and Parkinson's disease.

Obokata disputed the allegations, saying in a statement issued by Riken that she plans to appeal the findings issued by a committee set up to investigate discrepancies in the research published in January in the scientific journal *Nature*.

Nature has refused comment on whether the article might be retracted but said it is conducting its own evaluation and considering Riken's findings.

While Obokata alone was blamed for manipulating images of DNA fragments used in the research, Riken's director Ryoji Noyori held her co-authors "gravely responsible" for negligence in failing to fully verify their findings.

"The Riken incident says much more about the pressures to publish, and the harsh competition in stem cell research, than it does about Japan, I think," Ivan Oransky, global editorial director of MedPage Today, a news service for doctors, said in an email.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has made greater gender equality and female advancement in the workforce a plank of his economic revival strategy for Japan. But the recognition of Obokata, a fashionable young woman, as a leading scientist still made waves in conservative, male-dominated Japan.

The developments at Riken are a setback for government efforts to market Japan's research and development expertise as a 21st century industry needed to revitalize the country's manufacturing.

Arthur Caplan, an expert on bioethics at New York University Langone Medical Center, said the doubts about the research are a "devastating blow" for Japanese science.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Gunmen kill protester, wound 4 in Thai capital

BANGKOK (AP)—Gunmen killed one person and wounded four others in an attack Tuesday on anti-government protesters, in the latest violence in Thailand's long political crisis, authorities said. The shots were fired at a bus and a flatbed truck carrying demonstrators to their camp in central Bangkok after they had protested at a government office complex just north of the city. Erawan emergency services said three men and two women were shot and one of the men had died. Ramathibodi Hospital said 52-year-old Wasan Kamwong died from severe injuries to his head.

SKorea suspects crashed drone from North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean officials said Wednesday they suspect that an unmanned drone that crashed on a frontline South Korean island was flown by rival North Korea. The drone crashed on Baengnyeong island Monday when the two Koreas fired hundreds of artillery shells into each other's waters in a flare-up of animosity over a long-disputed sea boundary between the countries. No one was reported injured and all the shells splashed into the water. Presidential spokesman Min Kyung-wook told South Korean reporters that Seoul officials think the drone is from North Korea based on a preliminary investigation, according to his office. The spokesman didn't elaborate.

Group: Chinese logging threatens Myanmar monkey

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Illegal Chinese logging and demand for monkey bones are threatening a rare monkey species in northern Myanmar, a conservation group said Tuesday. British-based Fauna & Flora International said the main threats to the Myanmar snub-nosed monkey are deforestation caused by illegal Chinese logging and hunting of the animals for food and traditional medicine. It said it hopes that progress in peace negotiations in Kachin state—site of an insurgency—and the establishment of the Imawbum National Park there will help save the endangered creatures. The monkey, discovered in Kachin state in 2010, is listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. IUCN estimates that only 260 to 330 survive in the wild.

World

5 dead as magnitude-8.2 quake hits northern Chile

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

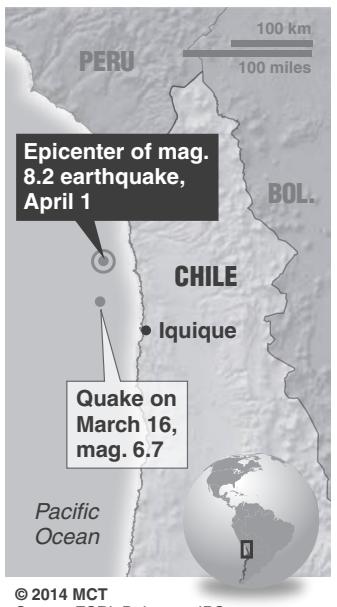
SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—A powerful magnitude-8.2 earthquake struck off northern Chile on Tuesday night, setting off a small tsunami that forced evacuations along the country's entire Pacific coast. Five people were crushed to death or suffered fatal heart attacks, the interior minister said, but Chile apparently escaped major damage or serious casualties.

The shaking loosed landslides that blocked roads, power failed for thousands, an airport was damaged and several businesses caught fire. About 300 inmates escaped from a women's prison in the city of Iquique, and Chile's military was sending a planeload of special forces to help police guard against looting.

In the city of Arica, 86 miles (139 kilometers) from the quake's epicenter, hospitals were treating minor injuries, and some homes made of adobe were destroyed and 90 percent of customers were without power, authorities said.

The quake also shook modern buildings in nearby Peru and in Bolivia's high altitude capital of La Paz.

Hours later, a tsunami warning remained in effect for northern Chile, but alerts were lifted elsewhere.



© 2014 MCT
Source: ESRI, DeLorme, IPC, NAVTEQ, NRCan, U.S. Geological Survey

"We regard the coast line of Chile as still dangerous, so we're maintaining the warning," geophysicist Gerard Fryer at the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center told The Associated Press.

Chile's Emergency Office said its tsunami watch would remain in effect for six more hours, meaning hundreds of thousands of people along the coast would not sleep in their beds. Swimmers and surfers in the U.S. state of Hawaii, thousands of miles away in the Pacific, might see higher waves Wednesday, the warning center said.

The U.S. Geological Survey initially reported the quake at 8.0, but later upgraded the magnitude. It said the quake struck 61 miles (99 kilometers) northwest of Iquique, hitting a region that has been rocked by numerous quakes over the past two weeks.

Psychiatrist Ricardo Yevenes said he was with a patient in Arica when the quake hit. "It quickly began to move the entire office, things were falling," he told local television. "Almost the whole city is in darkness."

The quake was so strong that the shaking experienced in Bolivia's capital about 290 miles (470 kilometers) away was the equivalent of a 4.5-magnitude tremor, authorities there said.

More than 10 strong aftershocks followed in the first few hours, including a 6.2 tremor. More aftershocks and even a larger quake could not be ruled out, said seismologist Mario Pardo at the University of Chile.

Interior Minister Rodrigo Penailillo said President Michelle Bachelet was closely watching the situation and was ready to take "any measures" to ensure people's safety. Hundreds of soldiers were being deployed in the quake zone, and a flight would be leaving soon with 100 special forces on board, he added.

NATO allies pledge to beef up eastern defenses

BRUSSELS (AP)—NATO foreign ministers moved Tuesday to beef up the defenses of front-line alliance members feeling menaced by a more assertive Russia, with Secretary of State John Kerry proclaiming the U.S. commitment to their security is "unwavering."

The ministers from NATO's 28 member nations also ordered suspension of all "practical civilian and military cooperation" with Vladimir Putin's Russia, though they made sure a line of communication with the Kremlin remains open at the ambassadorial level.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, keystone of U.S. and European security since the end of World War II, is facing its most acute geopolitical crisis in years: the fallout from Moscow's unilateral annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, which the Obama administration and its allies condemn as a brazen, illegal land grab.

On Tuesday, an estimated 35,000 to 40,000 Russian troops equipped with tanks, other armored vehicles and fixed and rotary wing aircraft remained positioned near the border with Ukraine, a NATO military official told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the information.

The military official described the Russian buildup as "a complete combat force" that was highly threatening to Ukraine.

Those troops, and future aggressive moves that Putin's Kremlin may make, have become a troubling concern for NATO countries, especially the alliance's eastern-most members - the Baltic states, Poland, and Romania, all of which were once in Moscow's orbit.

To reassure those skittish allies, Kerry told a news conference, the U.S. has already sent six F-15 fighters to perform air patrols over the Baltic and deployed a dozen F-16s to Poland. He noted that the U.S. had previously dispatched the USS Truxtun, a guided-missile destroyer, to the Black Sea.

Kerry: Premature to write off Mideast peace talks

BRUSSELS (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry says it is "completely premature" to write off the Israeli-Palestinian peace process even as negotiations were dealt a blow by a speech in which the Palestinian leader said he would press for U.N. recognition over Israel's strong objections.

A senior U.S. official said Kerry had called off plans to meet Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (mahk-MOOD' ah-BAHS') in the West Bank on Wednesday. But Kerry told reporters at NATO headquarters on Tuesday that he and his team remained in contact with both sides. He maintained that the two parties are committed to reaching a peace deal and called on them to exercise restraint during a difficult period

Kerry spoke shortly after Abbas said he would resume a bid for further Palestinian recognition by the United Nations.

Abbas' decision, meanwhile, also threw into doubt claims that a deal was emerging that would have extended Israel-Palestinian talks beyond an April 29 deadline and included the release of imprisoned American Jewish spy Jonathan Pollard.

Environment

BECQ lines up events for Environmental Awareness Month

April is the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's annual Environmental Awareness Month! EAM is all about protecting and caring for our islands, and this year's theme is "Keep it Clean, Keep it Green." To celebrate BECQ is hosting a number of activities throughout the month of April. There will be contests with prizes, and fun educational activities. So bring the whole family to and help us make EAM 2014 a success!

Kicking it all off is the Environmental Awareness Month declaration signing at the Governor's office on March 31 at 10:30am.

EVENTS AND CONTESTS

Tree Planting

BECQ and Forestry will be working together again this year to host several tree planting events around the island. Participants will learn about the different native plants species found in the CNMI, and how to add them to their own backyards! The events will be held on every Monday in April. To schedule a tree planting event, contact loyatalig@deq.gov.mp.

Pala Pala Painting

Coastal Resources Management will be hosting a beach and pavilion cleanup at Sugar Dock on April 12, from 9am to noon. Help us make Saipan beautiful by cleaning up the beach of all trash and debris as well as repainting and decorating the pavilions we love to enjoy. See you there! Please contact Nicole Schafer, nicole.schafer@crmsaipan.com or Avra Heller, avrahellerdeq@gmail.com, for more details.

Storm Drain Painting Contest

In March artists submitted eye-catching designs to decorate the storm drains in Garapan to remind and inform the public that all of our storm drains lead to our ocean, so we all need to work together to make sure we keep our streets and yards clean so the water in our ocean is clean as well. On April 17 at noon the public is invited to meet in front of Kinpachi Restaurant for a tour of the winning drains, and to meet the artists! Contact Olivia Tenorio at 664-8504 for details.

Turtle Tagging

Join staff from DFW's Turtle Team at Fishing Base at 11 am on April 15 and again on April 17, to learn more about these amazing creatures, and how the folks at DFW work to protect them. For more information contact Tammy Summers at tammymaesummers@yahoo.com.

Islandwide Cleanup

This year's 2014 Islandwide Cleanup event will take place on April 25, 2013, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. For more information about this event, please contact Ben Somol at 664-8500 and sign up today! This Islandwide Cleanup is extra special because it is the start of a partnership with the Let's Move Marianas Alliance to start a quarterly Islandwide Cleanup

Recycled Boat Race

Build your own boat out of recycled materials, and race to the finish! Your boat has to be man powered and cannot sink, or lose parts. There will be two races, for 18 and under, and one for 18+, with cash prizes. This event will take place on Saturday, April 26, at 10.30am at Kilili Beach, across from Ada gym. Contact Cal Westergard at calwestergard@deq.gov.mp for details.

First Friday Film

First Friday Films is showing a free documentary *Drawing the Line* on April 4 at 6:30pm at American Memorial Park visitor's center. *Drawing the Line* is a revealing tale about Australia's oceans and the men and women who depend upon it for their livelihood. For more information, visit firstfridayfilms-saipan.blogspot.com.

Environmental Expo

This year's EXPO will be held from 8am to 2pm on April 23-25. Over the course of the three days all of Saipan's 4th and 5th grade students will have the opportunity to learn from a variety of environmental management agencies and organizations about their work. Please contact Avra Heller at avrahellerdeq@gmail.com for more information.

Invasive Vine Control

Join the Micronesica Bird Conservation vine control program to help protect our native plants and animals. For more information contact MBC at micronesicabirdconservation@gmail.com.

Lab Tours

The DEQ Laboratory will be open for annual EAM Lab Tours with schools. To schedule a tour contact Vinson Sablan at vinsablan@deq.gov.mp. ***(BECQ)***

Forestry memorandum signed to help program delivery

HONOLULU—There's a breeze of fresh air! A formal partnership was recently recognized as a collaboration on forestry related technical assistance and program delivery in American Samoa.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Forest Service signed a memorandum of understanding with the American Samoa Soil and Water Conservation District and the American Samoa Community College. While all four MOU partners support forest management and conservation in American Samoa, each has varying levels of staffing, technical expertise, facilities and funding capacity. The purpose of this MOU is to strengthen cooperation and coordination among the Partners to better protect, conserve and enhance benefits from American Samoa's private and communal (non-federal) forest and agroforest lands.

This agreement will:

■ Describe ongoing cooperation between the partners so that it will continue even as individual staff members, volunteers and others may change;

■ Clarify local applications of cooperative activities authorized by national programs so that local partners may proceed with confidence; and

■ Commit to pursuing additional forms of cooperation.

"NRCS has a significant amount of capability in identifying landowners interested in forestry practices," said Christine Clarke, acting director for the NRCS Pacific Islands Area. "We would benefit from a relationship that ensured that all parties' goals are met."

"This will be another valuable partnership as we continue to explore new ways to accomplish collaborative Ecological Restoration work," said Randy Moore, regional forester for the Pacific Southwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service. "This MOU is an example of what can happen when people work toward a common vision without boundaries in an all-lands approach."

"The American Samoa Soil and Water Conservation District is honored to cooperate with the partners of the Forestry MOU," said Ma'anaima Fuala'au, ASSWCD chairman. "This MOU will definitely promote interagency delivery of forestry-related conservation programs in American Samoa and motivate landowners to become more active in planning and managing their forests for future generation."

"On behalf President Dr. Seth Galea'i, it's a privilege for the American Samoa Community College Forestry Program to be a partner in the MOU," said Tapa'au Dr. Daniel Mageo Aga, ASCC director. "We need to make the right decision to protect our forests so that our forests can protect us."

On Sept. 26, 2013, the National Association of State Foresters, the National Association of Conservation Districts, the NRCS and the USFS updated and signed a national Joint Forestry MOU. The national MOU strengthens cooperation between the partners at the national level for coordinated interagency delivery of forestry-related conservation assistance to privately managed lands. This MOU provides specific detail on how the intent of the national MOU will be addressed in American Samoa.

The partners recognize the unique and complementary role that each partner brings to the partnership:

■ The ASCC Forestry Program conducts extension, technical assistance and public education programs for landowners/land users and community groups, and provides noncash, material assistance, especially planting materials.

■ The USFS recognizes ASCC as the "State Forester" of American Samoa for the purposes of USFS financial assistance to ASCC to conduct the above programs under State and Private Forestry authorities.

■ The NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners to conserve the natural resources on their lands.

■ NRCS and USFS are sources of interdisciplinary expertise for forestry and natural resource conservation; local staff can call upon specialists from these national agencies.

■ The ASSWCD carries out natural resource management at the Territorial level and acts as a liaison between private landowners and government assistance programs.

■ Landowners voluntarily request assistance from the Partners and are the decision makers for their land.

To learn more about USDA, visit http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/communityforests or www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov for more information. ***(USDA)***

Life & Style

CBS comedy 'How I Met Your Mother' ends

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—In its 208th and final episode on Monday, the CBS comedy "How I Met Your Mother" finally revealed the mystery contained in its title and then ended with a twist designed to reward longtime fans.

Actor Josh Radnor's character Ted meets the mom, played by actress Cristin Milioti, on a rainy train platform after his friends Barney and Robin are married.

But that marriage doesn't last, and neither does Ted's - because Milioti's character Tracy dies after the couple has two children together. And at the end of the one-hour episode, the romance that seemed natural at the show's beginning, between Ted and Robin, is rekindled.

Creators Carter Bays and Craig Thomas say they knew the plot for the final episode when the series premiered nine years ago. Success kept them stringing along the story, even though part of Monday's finale was filmed in 2006 for fear that the teen-aged actors who played Ted's children would become unrecognizable.

The series has been a solid if not spectacular performer for CBS, and its average of 9.8 million viewers this season means it will likely be its most-watched ever. It has never averaged below 8.25 million viewers in a season, the Nielsen company said, and its success in syndication means reruns will likely be seen for many years to come.

Most of the last season has been set in one weekend: Robin and Barney's wedding, where Tracy was the bass player in the wedding band. The final episode skips through several years, where we learn that the marriage of Robin and Barney (played by Cobie Smulders and Neil Patrick Harris) splits up because of her success as a television correspondent. Barney has a baby through a one-night stand and Marshall and Lily (played by Jason Segel and Alyson Hannigan) have three kids and he becomes a judge.

AP
In this Saturday, March 1, 2014 photo, Josh Radnor arrives at the 2014 Film Independent Spirit Awards, in Santa Monica, Calif.

Ted and Tracy get married after a long engagement and the kids, but she gets sick and dies, a development that many fans speculated upon in recent weeks because of a foreshadowing in an earlier episode.

After that, Ted wraps up the story - how I met your mother - that he had been telling his children throughout the length of the show.

The children, however, tell him that it's also a story about how he loves their Aunt Robin. They say his attraction to her is obvious and that he should ask her on a date.

"C'mon, dad," said the daughter, played by Lyndsy Fonseca. "Mom's gone for six years now. It's time."

Ted and Robin dated early in the show's history and seemed a natural match. Yet the producers made clear that Robin was not the "mother" of the title, disappointing many of the show's fans at the time.

The children urge Ted to pick up the phone and call Robin. He thinks better of it and drives to her apartment. She opens the window to see him holding a blue horn - a reference to a story from when they had dated - and the series ends.

The producers are at work on a pilot for a spinoff series, "How I Met Your Dad," that involves different actors. This cast has already scattered, and commercials that aired during the finale advertised an upcoming movie starring Segel and a Broadway show where Harris is appearing. On Monday night, Smulders appeared at a New York screening for the movie "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," in which she performs.

Smulders said that after the screening, she planned to go home and watch the finale with friends. She said many of the emotions felt by the characters in the last episode mirrored what the actors were feeling.

"I am personally really thrilled," she said. "The show comes full circle."

As another season begins, 'Thrones' still very much in the game

By VERNE GAY
NEWSDAY

WHAT IT'S ABOUT: With Robb Stark, his mother and their various associates (including a dire wolf) dispatched at the Red Wedding, House Lannister has full control of King's Landing, and presumably the seven kingdoms of Westeros.

The War of the Five Kings would appear to be over. The various threats from within and without (would appear) vanquished. So now, time for a "happy," or at least politically expedient, occasion: The marriage of Lord Tywin Lannister's (Charles Dance) rotten-to-the core grandson, King Joffrey (Jack Gleeson), to scheming Lady Margaery Tyrell (Natalie Dormer), which will unite two "Great Houses" of the Seven Kingdoms, House Tyrell and House Lannister.

The task of greeting wedding guests falls to Tyrion Lannister (Peter Dinklage). One of those, a Dornishman named Oberyn Martell (Pedro Pascal), has more ominous reasons for attending than to kiss the bride's hand.

Meanwhile, far to the north, the Night's Watch debriefs Jon Snow (Kit Harington), who informs them of what he (and you) learned last season: That Mance Rayder (Ciarán Hinds), the King Beyond the Wall, has mustered a huge army that is about to overrun the Wall ... and Westeros. Looks like the war isn't over after all.

A quick note on other key protagonists: The dragons of Daenerys Targaryen (Emelia Clarke) have grown in the offseason, and like all teens, they are somewhat unruly. She herself has mustered a considerable force as well.

MY SAY: Sunday marks the beginning of the halfway mark for "Game of Thrones"—if we're to take showrunners David Benioff and D.B. Weiss at their word, and no reason not to. In interviews, they've said the creator of this sprawling TV and literary kingdom, George

GAME OF THRONES
Season premiere Sunday at 9 p.m. EDT on HBO

R.R. Martin, has told them how "A Song of Ice and Fire"—the series upon which "Game of Thrones" is based—will wrap. By their estimation, about 80 hours—or eight seasons—should do his vision justice.

But if Sunday's episode, "Two Swords," is the beginning of the end, then what are we to make of "Game's" eventual endgame?

Pretty much the same as what came before, only worse. This remains a world built on the best-laid plans of mice and men who haven't got the slightest idea of what lies just beyond the horizon—or over the Wall. Winter is coming, and with it not merely the ice—that would be tolerable—but a sentient, apparently indestructible force of "white walkers" and "wights" (essentially zombies, only more dexterous and better smelling).

Who will ultimately prevail? Anyone? And to secure something as frivolous as a mere "kingdom"? What's the point of that?

Martin clearly has big ideas at play in a yarn that's so richly populated with people along with the venal, stupid, duplicitous things they do that it's easy to lose sight of those.

But step back, take a deep breath and pay close attention: The end of his gloriously realized world is imminent in every scene, every word. The foreshadowing is ominous. The quaint idea that evil will be vanquished feels foolish, increasingly so—or to quote that Oscar Wilde character, "The good ended happily, and the bad unhappily. That is what 'Fiction' means."

Meanwhile, keep an eye—a close one—on priestess Melisandre (Carice van Houten), who holds another would-be king, Stannis Baratheon (Stephen Dillane), in her thrall, along with his shrewd young daughter, Shireen (Kerry Ingram). Melisandre sees something in those flames she worships.

"There is only one hell," she explains. "The one we live in now."

BOTTOM LINE: Still TV's best—dive in while the water's warm. Winter is coming, after all.

Silent film trove from the early 1900s surfaces

By SUSAN KING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Long-missing comedy shorts including 1927's "Mickey's Circus," featuring a 6-year-old Mickey Rooney in his first starring role, and 1917's "Neptune's Naughty Daughter"; as well as 1925's "Fifty Million Years Ago," an animated introduction to the theory of evolution, are among the American silent films recently recovered at the EYE Filmmuseum in Amsterdam.

EYE and the San Francisco-based National Film Preservation Foundation have partnered to repatriate and preserve these films, many of which either don't exist in the U.S. or exist only in inferior prints.

The announcement was made Sunday in Amsterdam at the EYE museum with a public screening of the first film saved from the project: "Koko's Queen," a 1926 "Out of the Inkwell" cartoon, which had been available in the U.S. only in substandard video copies.

Annette Melville, director of the National Film Preservation Foundation, said EYE contacted the NFPF after learning of its partnership four years ago with the New Zealand Film Archive, which repatriated nitrate prints of nearly 200 silent U.S. films, including a missing 1927 John Ford comedy, "Upstream." The following year, the NFPF and the New Zealand archive also identified the 30-minute portion of the 1923 British film "The White Shadow," considered to be the earliest feature film in which Alfred Hitchcock had a credit.

"We took responsibility for funding the preservation of a good number of the 176 films," Melville said, referring to the EYE discoveries. "We didn't want to bite off more than we could chew. There are a lot of resources involved in bringing the films back and preserving them."

With support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the NFPF last year sent researcher Leslie Lewis to Amsterdam, where she spent two months examining more than 200,000 feet of highly combustible 35 millimeter nitrate film. A veritable Sherlock Holmes of celluloid, Lewis was also one of two nitrate experts dispatched to identify the films in the New Zealand Archive.

"There's a good reason these films haven't been preserved," said Melville, noting that credit sequences on many of the titles had decayed over the years. "Many of them haven't been identified because the way films sit on their reels, sometimes the credits are most exposed to the atmosphere."

Then there was the language problem. In the instances in which credits did survive or the film had intertitles, they were generally in Dutch.

Working with research teams at the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., Lewis would take photos of scenes from the films, as well as copies of intertitles and then send them off to experts for identification.

"We would look up the stuff and send information back the next morning," said Melville, adding that this is the first large-scale repatriation project involving the translation of intertitles back into English.

Not only does the EYE collection feature shorts, animated films, dramas, serials and westerns, there is also a cache of nonfiction films, including footage from a 1920 Chicago rodeo; 1923's "The Crystal Ascension," which chronicles an exploration of Mt. Hood; 1917's "The Dairy Industry and the Canning of Milk"; and 1925's "Uncommon Clay," on America's art pottery heritage.

"After World War I, many of the film companies in Europe had taken a big hit, and the U.S. government supported the film industry by helping to send over films overseas," said Melville. "They sent short comedies and features, but they solicited big business to send over films about what they do."

Twenty-six of the short films have been shipped for preservation at Colorlab in Rockville, Md., under the guidance of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Library of Congress.

Colbert blows up show's official Twitter account

NEW YORK (AP)—Stephen Colbert is done with the "Colbert Report" Twitter account.

He teamed with one of Twitter's founders, Biz Stone, on Monday's show to symbolically blow up his show's Twitter account. The account has been removed from Twitter.

A tweet from that account, controlled by Comedy Central, created controversy last week when it showed a photo from last week's show that some Asians deemed offensive. A CancelColbert hashtag was created and ignited an online debate over the limits of satire.

Colbert's defenders suggested the tweet was taken out of context.

Colbert directed his fans to his personal Twitter account with more than six million followers instead.

CBS dubs sound for quiet electric car

NEW YORK (AP)—CBS News says an editor made an "audio error" in dubbing the sound of a loud traditional car engine over footage of the much quieter Tesla electric car in a "60 Minutes" story that aired Sunday.

Spokesman Kevin Tedesco said Tuesday the loud car audio has been edited out of the online version of the story on Tesla founder Elon Musk. Anchor Scott Pelley reported the story, and CBS said he wasn't aware of the added audio ahead of time.

The revving sound, as opposed to the much quieter wind-like noise of a Tesla, was noticed by the auto enthusiast website Jalopnik.com. Writer Robert Sorokanich said it almost sounded like a motorcycle.

"It's one thing to dub exciting motor noises over a mundane-sounding car, but to plop engine sounds on a car that most folks realize is nearly silent? That just seems ... bizarre," he wrote.

Tesla had no comment on the editing, a spokeswoman said Tuesday.

It's been a rough year at television's most popular newsmagazine, with correspondent Lara Logan still on leave after an internal CBS report questioned her reporting and objectivity on a story about an attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya. Critics also questioned the show's reporting on stories involving the National Security Agency and Amazon.

'Divergent' a dual hit at box office, bookstores

NEW YORK (AP)—It's good news for novelist Veronica Roth: "Divergent" is a hit at the box office and a blockbuster at book stores.

A spokeswoman for HarperCollins Children's Books said Tuesday that the young adult series set in a dystopian future has been selling 500,000 copies a week over the past three weeks.

The movie "Divergent" is based on the first book and stars Shailene Woodley, Theo James and Kate Winslet. The action-thriller was released March 21 and has already made nearly $100 million.

The first "Divergent" book was published in 2011, and total sales for the series now exceed 18 million copies. As of Tuesday afternoon, four of the top 10 sellers on Amazon.com were "Divergent" books.

AP

British actor Theo James and U.S actress Shailene Woodley arrive for the German film premiere of "Divergent" in Berlin, Tuesday, April 1, 2014.

Kanye postpones Australia tour to record new album

NEW YORK (AP)—Kanye West has postponed his May tour of Australia so he can concentrate on new music.

West announced Tuesday that he'll postpone seven dates in five cities scheduled for May 2 to 11 until Sept. 5 to 15 because of "unexpected timing requirements" to finish his new album, expected to be released later this year.

The announcement included no other details about the 36-year-old Grammy Award-winning rapper-producer's new album. The follow-up to 2013's divisive but critically acclaimed "Yeezus" LP will be one of 2014's most anticipated releases.

AP

In this Oct. 22, 2013 file photo, recording artist Kanye West speaks onstage during the 17th Annual Hollywood Film Awards Gala at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Flea of Red Hot Chili Peppers has book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael "Flea" Balzary of the Red Hot Chili Peppers has embarked on a "sacred" mission: writing a memoir. The 51-year-old bassist has a deal with Grand Central Publishing, a division of Hachette Book Group. Grand Central announced Tuesday that the book, currently untitled, would be a window into Flea's "intense and dynamic life." He will cover his years with singer Anthony Kiedis and his "tumultuous" path with the Red Hot Chili Peppers over the past three decades. The band has sold more than 80 million records and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2012. In a statement released through the publisher, Flea says he regards books as "sacred" and that they had helped shape his identity. No release date has been set for his memoir.

Strahan to join 'Good Morning America' part time

NEW YORK (AP)—Talk show host and former football star Michael Strahan is expected to soon join the cast of ABC's "Good Morning America," at least on a part-time basis. A person with knowledge of the negotiations who requested anonymity because the deal hasn't been completed said Tuesday that Strahan will work semi-regularly during the show's first hour. Strahan continues as host of the daytime talker "Live with Kelly and Michael." The top-rated morning news show has lost two male cast members in the past four months: Sam Champion to The Weather Channel and Josh Elliott to NBC Sports, the latter in a deal expected to be formally announced Wednesday. Talks with Strahan reportedly predate Elliott's departure, announced on Sunday. Strahan would join cast members George Stephanopoulos, Robin Roberts, Amy Robach, Lara Spencer and weather forecaster Ginger Zee.

Readers weigh in on pros and cons of only childhood

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: "Maybe Only One in Georgia" (Jan. 7), who asked whether she should have a second child, needs to understand there are no guarantees. Her 5-year-old could end up hating her younger sibling, or adoring her. Parents create a child because they want to share their union with a new life. Each child is unique and represents a life commitment, not just 18 years of hard work.

I am the youngest of four, the "surprise" baby boy when my parents were in their 40s. I loved them and they never made me feel unwanted. I adore my older sister. We were always close despite the eight-year age difference. My two brothers are very different than I am, and we don't have much to do with one another.

"Maybe" should not produce another child to be a playmate to the one they have. It should be done only if they're financially, emotionally and spiritually willing and capable of rearing another person. If not, they should enjoy the extra time, money and energy they'll have, and perhaps give a needy dog or cat a home.

YOUNGEST CHILD IN SAVANNAH

DEAR YOUNGEST CHILD: I told "Maybe" I couldn't decide this for her, but would open up the question to my readers. And they sure had some comments! Here are a few:

DEAR ABBY: My advice is DON'T! I have two sons, 27 and 31. They hardly know each other and have no interest in what the other is doing. It breaks my heart, as they are the only close blood relatives they have.

I didn't have the younger one so the older would have company. I wanted another baby. I was 29, but wouldn't consider it at "Maybe's" age (38). How long does she think she can run that fast?

MITZI IN DAYTON

DEAR ABBY: Most only children I know are spoiled and used to getting their own way, largely because they haven't had to share. My husband is from a large family and they are all close, even with a 20-year age span.

We recently dealt with issues related to elderly parents, and trust me, I was so thankful to have the help of my siblings. I feel it is unfair to raise a child alone if you're able to add to the family unit.

GRATEFUL MOM

DEAR ABBY: I am a happy only child. I was raised by kind people. I have a positive self-image, was a self-reliant kid and am a confident, productive adult.

As a parent, I had a lot to learn. My husband, one of four siblings, reassured me that the quarreling and jealousy among our three was normal. They learned to fight and stick up for themselves—something I had to master later.

As a child, I wondered what it would be like to have a brother or sister, but my imaginary friends were good company. When my aging parents were ailing, it might have been nice to have a sibling to share that with, but my husband was ample support.

"Onlies" can be very peaceful people. Most of us prefer to cooperate rather than compete. As kids, we're the center of the universe and responsible for everything. That sense of responsibility carries over into adulthood.

ANNE IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ABBY: Have that second child if fate wills it. Your life will be richer for it. Your daughter will appreciate having a sibling, and you will wonder how you ever imagined life without him/her.

I was 6 when my sister was born. Yes, we went to different schools and had different friends. But we shared a bedroom as we matured and had many memorable times we still talk about today. There is no age barrier as time passes, and really, that gap closes earlier than you would think.

BIG SIS IN FLORIDA

DEAR ABBY: Many kids, such as a classmate of your child, need a second temporary home—if only for a play date away from their own house. Open your home to these opportunities. Expose your child to those less fortunate than she. On travels, visit a school (or community), so she can see how it differs from her own circumstances. Create independence in her, but also teach her the INTERDEPENDENCE she'll need for a balanced life.

WYOMING TEACHER

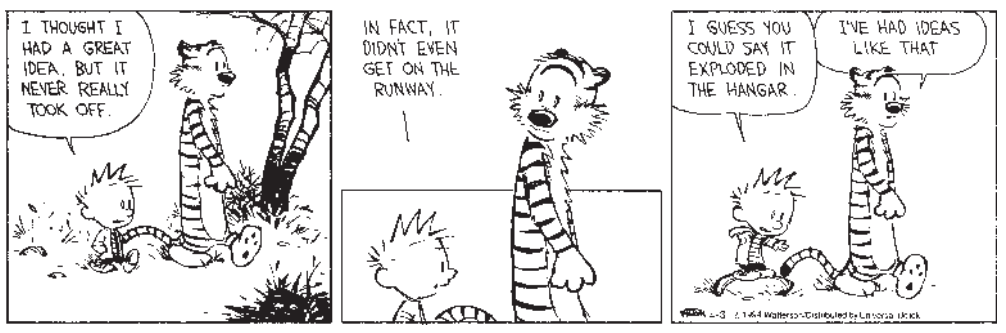
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

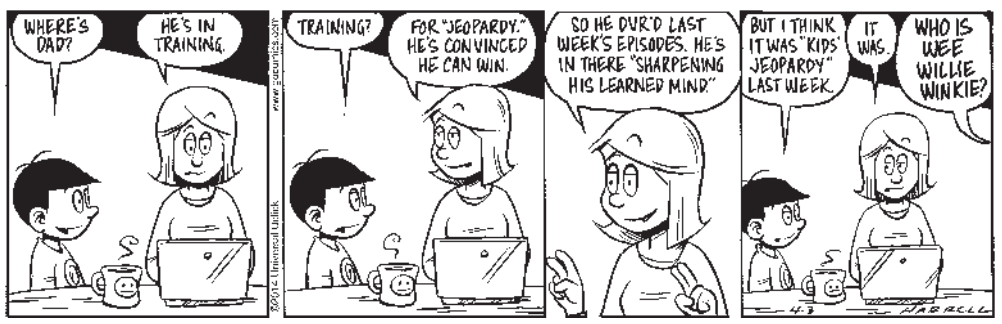

I THOUGHT I HAD A GREAT IDEA. BUT IT NEVER REALLY TOOK OFF.
IN FACT, IT DIDN'T EVEN GET ON THE RUNWAY.
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY IT EXPLODED IN THE HANGAR.
I'VE HAD IDEAS LIKE THAT

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

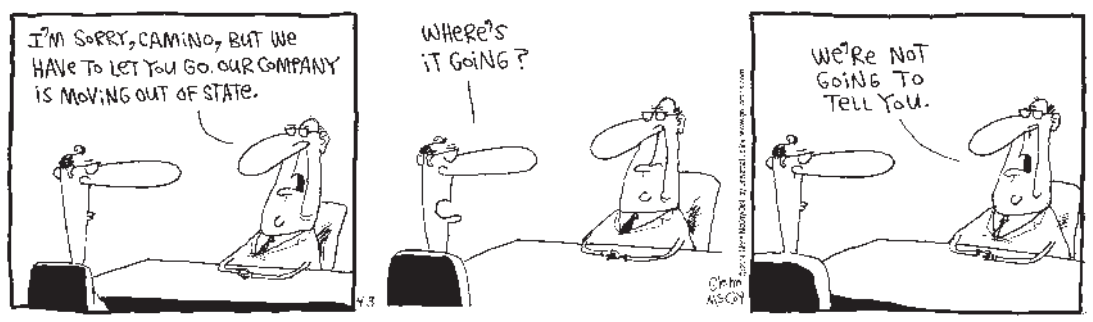
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHERE'S DAD?
HE'S IN TRAINING.
TRAINING?
FOR "JEOPARDY." HE'S CONVINCED HE CAN WIN.
SO HE DVR'D LAST WEEK'S EPISODES. HE'S IN THERE "SHARPENING HIS LEARNED MIND."
BUT I THINK IT WAS "KIDS' JEOPARDY" LAST WEEK.
IT WAS.
WHO IS WEE WILLIE WINKIE?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

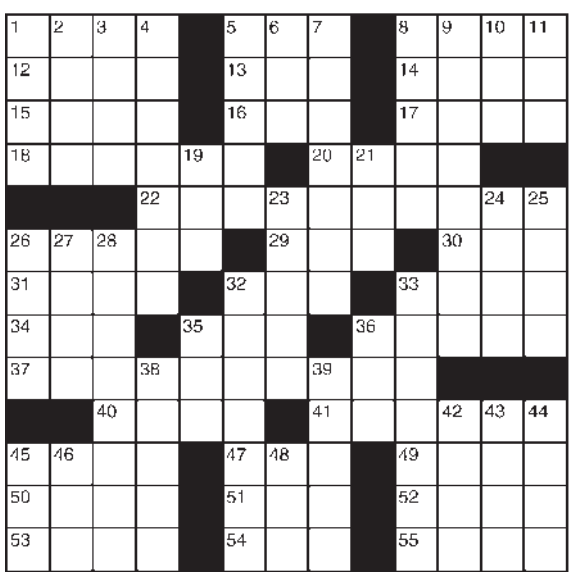
ACROSS
1 "The Georgia Peach"
5 Total
8 Somewhere out there
12 Smell
13 "— picture paints 1,000 words, ..."
14 Big rig
15 Painter Joan
16 Neither mate
17 Settled up
18 Elton John's "— and the Jets"
20 Pace
22 Locomotive front
26 Dud on the road
29 Shade
30 Comic Philips
31 Yard sale condition
32 Remiss
33 Overly proper
34 — de mer
35 Shriner's chapeau
36 Sew loosely
37 Earth-movers
40 "Phooey!"
41 Learn by heart
45 Actress Cameron
47 Earlier
49 "The Music Man" locale
50 Pinnacle
51 Scoundrel
52 Portent
53 Mamie's predecessor
54 Coloring agent
55 Egg container

DOWN
1 Barber's tool
2 Garfield's pal
3 Given life
4 Super Bowl XLVIII losers
5 Muscle connector
6 E.T.'s craft?
7 Actress Hemingway
8 Jellied entree
9 Darts' parts
10 Parisian pal
11 Dispose (of)
19 Charged bit
21 Chowed down
23 Actor Palminteri
24 Send out
25 City on seven hills
26 Mary's follower
27 Jacob's brother
28 Pond creators near factories
32 "The Big Bang Theory" character
33 Ardor
35 Dime portrait
36 Lingerie item
38 Enjoys the hammock
39 Overact
42 Heavy reading
43 Rams' mates
44 Carry on
45 Slight touch
46 Lemieux milieu
48 Festive

Solution time: 25 mins.

		E	S	Q			S	T	D			
	F	R	A	U			S	H	O	O	T	
B	O	O	N	E			C	A	M	E	R	A
M	I	D	D	L	E	A	M	E	R	I	C	A
I	L	E			L	A	M	E	S		V	I	M
			J	E	S	S			J	E	D	I
	S	H	A	D	E		B	A	I	T	S	
A	L	U	M				L	I	M	B		
R	O	M		A	B	A	T	E		P	D	A
C	O	M	E	D	Y	C	E	N	T	R	A	L
	P	E	D	D	L	E		D	R	O	V	E
		R	E	L	A	Y		E	A	V	E	
			N	E	W			D	Y	E		

Yesterday's answer 4-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cobie Smulders, 32; Adam Scott, 41; Eddie Murphy, 53; Alec Baldwin, 56.

Happy Birthday: You'll have plenty of opportunities, but picking and choosing what's best for you will not be easy. Stick to your original goals and don't let anyone talk you into putting your energy and time into projects that won't benefit you directly. Set your standards and your priorities. It's better to do one thing well than to do several poorly. Your numbers are 4, 13, 20, 28, 34, 37, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Do whatever it takes to stabilize your position and enhance your reputation at work. Refrain from making impulsive moves or decisions that can jeopardize your domestic scene or your relationship with someone special. An idea that is profitable will grab your attention. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Discussions that are meant to help someone in need will make a difference to the outcome of a situation that has been ignored in the past. Attending a reunion or getting together with an old friend will be eye-opening. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Make changes if you feel it is necessary. Taking action and following through with a promise will help you avoid complaints. Don't be led astray by someone withholding information. Find out firsthand what's expected of you. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make plans to do something unusual or get involved in something that allows you to learn about different beliefs, cultures or lifestyles. A challenge that entails physical strength can lead to injury. Proceed with caution. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Do your best to bring about changes that will benefit friends, relatives or neighbors. Attending community meetings or events will allow you to take a leadership position. Express your thoughts and your intentions. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A good idea coupled with a detailed presentation will help you attract interest in something you want to pursue. Double-check all the information you gather before you make a promise or commitment. Confusion can lead to a false impression. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Sign up for an activity, event or something entertaining. You can improve your relationship with special people if you do things together. Having fun with the youngsters in your life or planning a family outing or trip is favored. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Finding financial solutions may not be as easy or straightforward as hoped. An investment that's suggested isn't likely to be as lucrative as you've been told. Stick to proven means and methods when it comes to money, health and legal matters. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep your thoughts to yourself. Someone will misinterpret what you are trying to say. Focus on home, family and fixing up your digs to suit your needs. Add to your entertainment center, but be careful not to overspend in the process. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Say little, especially if you are dealing with a friend, neighbor or relative. You are best to give others the benefit of the doubt and go about your business. Don't let someone's uncertainty confuse you. Do what you know works best for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Make positive changes regarding how you earn your money, and you will raise your standard of living. Put love and romance at the top of your list, and you will improve your personal life and future. A long-term investment will pay off. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Resurrect an old plan and revise it to fit your current situation. Use your skills in a unique way in order to raise your income. Discuss your plans and you will get the help you need to move forward. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative and sensitive. You are demonstrative and heroic.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7						
			1	7	5		8	
5		9						
	7		3		4		5	
	6						2	
	1		7		9		6	
						4		6
	4		5	9	3			
						7		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	1	4	3	5	6	9	7	8
8	5	7	9	4	2	6	3	1
6	9	3	8	1	7	5	4	2
3	8	6	4	2	9	7	1	5
5	7	2	1	6	8	3	9	4
9	4	1	5	7	3	2	8	6
1	2	9	7	8	5	4	6	3
4	3	5	6	9	1	8	2	7
7	6	8	2	3	4	1	5	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/03

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SID CAESAR (1922-2014) **Solution: 8 letters**

S	C	E	T	A	M	K	C	E	H	C	I	S	U	M
N	I	A	D	O	N	A	P	P	E	L	R	I	G	N
E	E	D	A	R	C	A	S	P	Y	O	I	S	N	O
V	S	R	N	S	A	T	R	E	L	M	C	F	I	I
A	R	A	A	E	I	G	N	T	N	A	K	O	T	S
E	E	C	E	K	Y	O	T	O	I	E	Y	O	I	S
H	T	T	S	D	M	M	S	N	I	S	C	P	R	E
D	N	O	P	D	I	E	A	F	A	T	T	S	W	R
O	U	R	N	C	E	M	I	U	U	V	A	O	B	P
O	H	U	H	C	E	R	S	S	D	N	A	C	O	X
G	O	E	L	G	E	V	O	L	A	I	N	E	A	E
F	L	O	O	S	E	S	A	E	R	G	E	Y	T	V
E	O	O	A	W	A	R	D	S	I	L	E	N	T	I
C	T	L	A	C	I	R	I	T	A	S	R	V	C	L
S	E	E	C	N	E	R	O	L	F	M	O	V	I	E

© 2014 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 4/3

Actor, Artist, Audience, Avant-garde, Awards, Boat, Checkmate, Cool Cees, Don Appel, Expression, Fire Sale, Florence, Found Money, Funny, Girl, Good Heavens, Grease, Hunters, Ideas, Isaac, Karen, Live, Love, Michele, Movie, Music, Play, Rick, Satirical, Scenes, Sidney, Silent, Skits, Spoofs, Stoogemania, Vacation, Vegas, Writing

Yesterday's Answer: Virginia

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1**, order online at wonderword.universaluclick.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED TO BUY

We buy used cars! Accepting all make and models from 97' & up. Call 287-8688 DPA CAR MART.

PACIFIC ISLAND CLEANING AGENCY
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) General Maintenance
Must have 7 years experience.
(6) Commercial Cleaner
Must have 5 years experience.
Please send resume to PO Box 502670
Koblerville, Saipan MP, 96950

www.saipantribune.com

MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

ALFREDO B. MASANGCAY JR.
ABM AUTO REPAIR SHOP
1 Auto Body Repairer
Minimum of 5 years experience. $ 5.55/hr.
Email resume to masangcayrowena@yahoo.com

Thai Massage Inc. need a
Beautician or Stylist
(Preferably U.S. Citizen)
Preferably Speaks Japanese
5 years experience
Apply in person. We are located at the Victoria Hotel in Garapan. (Across American Memorial Park)

HALAL CORPORATION CNMI
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) Assistant Manager - College Graduate preferred. Handle VOIP softswitch, Cisco Hardware, and Billing Software. Min. of 3 years experience. Salary: $6.25/hr.
(2) Sales Person - Accept orders and deliver to stores. Receive payments and deposit to banks. Min. of 3 years experience. Salary $5.55/hr.
If interested, please call 233-9457.

OKADA CORPORATION
dba OKADAYA
P0 B0X 501778 , Saipan MP 969560
Email add: okadayasaipan@gmail.com
Contact no: 670 9897776 / 235 2588

Job Vacancy Announcement

One (1) Kitchen Staff
Minimum of 2 years work experience, can work in flexible hours including weekends and holidays.

One (1) Baker
Minimum of 10 years work experience as pastry maker .

One (1) Supervisor
Minimum of 5 years work experience, must be reliable, can work under pressure and flexible hours. Must be computer literate, proficient both in writing and speaking communication. Can speak and understand basic Japanese.

All applicants must provide latest Police Clearance and willing to undergo drug test. Must have their own means of transportation.

All applicants must apply in person with their resume (with picture) at:
OKADAYA
1F Joeten Commercial Bldg,
Beach Road Susupe, Saipan

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill)
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

FEATURES:
- Fully Furnished
- Back-up Generator
- Air-conditioning in all rooms
- FREE WiFi
- Laundry Area
- Nighttime Security
- Ample Parking
- 24hr water

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Vacant Land and Commercial Space
For LEASE or SALE

- Commercial Space and Apartments for lease in the tourist district in Garapan (across Hyatt). Commercial space perfect for motel, gift shop, restaurant and bar. Heavy pedestrian traffic.
- Undeveloped property fronting middle road across CHC for lease or sale (next to 99 Supermarket).
- Former hotel in Chalan Kanoa for sale or lease. Walking distance to Sandy beach.

To make an appointment to view these properties, please contact us by email at pandorasaipan@gmail.com or by phone at 989-1230 or 234-6025. Serious inquiries only.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

Over 100 food stamp vouchers on hold
Businesses slam 'excessive' $500 fire re-inspection, $500 permit fees
Are you ready to Ace it?
Even despots don't live forever
The flagrance of war
More US Catholics take complaints to church court
GCA's January forensic winners
Mustang Boss 302
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards
Mary Tyler Moore honored for lifetime achievement
Rollers eyeing two trips to PH in 201
'King of Aces' on island through January
SUDOKU
Subscribe to the CNMI's
First Daily Newspaper
CALL 235-NEWS

WHATZIT Solution: Talk in circles

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

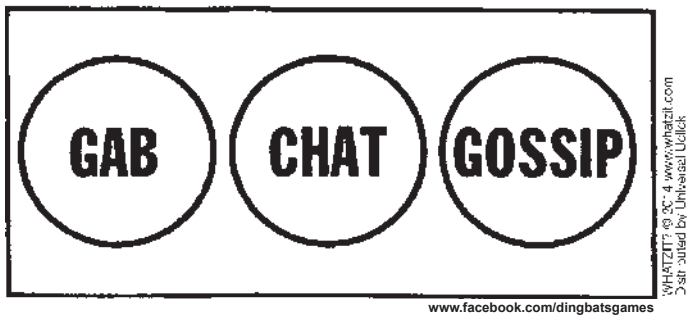
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Puig hits 410-foot homer in LA's 3-2 win vs Padres

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Yasiel Puig hit a 410-foot drive for a two-run homer and Zack Greinke won his season debut, leading the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 3-2 victory against the San Diego Padres on Tuesday.

Carl Crawford started the game with a base hit and Puig then drove a 2-1 pitch from Ian Kennedy into the balcony on the third deck of the Western Metal Supply Co. Building in the left-field corner. It was his first homer.

It was the second time Kennedy faced the Dodgers since June 11, when, while with Arizona, he hit Puig and Greinke with pitches, inciting a brawl at Dodger Stadium. Kennedy was suspended 10 games. He was traded to the Padres on July 31.

San Diego loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth against Kenley Jansen, on singles by Yonder Alonso and Will Venable, and a walk to Yasmani Grandal. The closer then struck out pinch-hitter Nick Hundley to earn his second save in two chances.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Dee Gordon slaps a base hit to center to drive in a run against the San Diego Padres in the fourth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 1, 2014, in San Diego.

Marlins 4, Rockies 3

In Miami, Nathan Eovaldi pitched six innings as Miami made the most of five hits to beat Colorado for the second night in a row.

The Marlins' 2-0 start hints at big improvement from last year, when they began 14-41 en route to a 100-loss season. The Rockies are 0-2 after finishing last in the NL West in 2013.

Eovaldi (1-0) allowed two runs and struck out six after Jose Fernandez limited Colorado to one run in the season opener. Eovaldi gave up six hits, walked one and reached 99 mph on the radar gun.

A.J. Ramos struck out Nolan Arenado with runners at the corners to end the eighth, protecting a one-run lead. Steve Cishek converted his 30th consecutive save opportunity and first of the year by pitching a perfect ninth.

Brett Anderson (0-1) pitched six innings and allowed four runs, three earned, in his first start for the Rockies.

Braves 5, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Freddie Freeman hit a pair of solo home runs and Jason Heyward added a two-run shot to back a solid outing by Alex Wood.

Heyward's first homer of the season off Kyle Lohse (0-1) put the Braves on top 2-1 in the fifth and snapped a string of 22 scoreless innings against the Brewers.

Freeman opened the sixth with his first homer and added a two-out home run in the eighth to make it 4-1.

Wood (1-0) settled down after allowing a home run to Carlos Gomez on his first pitch. The left-hander allowed one run on five hits in seven innings. Craig Kimbrel struck out the side in the ninth for the save.

Lohse allowed three runs on five hits in seven innings, striking out eight and walking two.

Diamondbacks 5, Giants 4

In Phoenix, A.J. Pollock broke out of an 0-for-13 start to the season with three hits, scoring twice and driving in a run for Arizona.

Wade Miley (1-1) gave up four runs in the first inning, and then blanked the Giants for the next six, retiring 15 in a row in one stretch.

Gerardo Parra had two hits and the sacrifice fly that scored to the go-ahead run in the sixth inning.

Brandon Belt hit a three-run home run in the first, his second homer in as many games.

Addison Reed, who gave up the game-winning home run to Buster Posey Monday night, pitched a scoreless ninth for his first save with the Diamondbacks.

Juan Guiterrez (0-1) went two innings to take the loss in relief of Matt Cain, who allowed two earned runs in five innings.

Astros 6, Yankees 2

In Houston, Jesus Guzman and L.J. Hoes homered off CC Sabathia to help the Houston Astros roll to a win in the first game of Derek Jeter's farewell tour with the New York Yankees.

Jeter's final big league season began by being plunked on the left arm by Scott Feldman. The 13-time All-Star went 1 for 3 with a single.

Jeter, who has won five World Series with New York, announced in February that his 20th season would be his last.

The Astros added Dexter Fowler and Scott Feldman to improve a team coming off three straight 100-loss seasons. On the first day, it worked.

Fowler had two doubles as Houston jumped on Sabathia (0-1) for six runs in the first two innings. Feldman allowed two hits in 6 2-3 innings in his Houston debut after signing a three-year, $30 million contract.

Blue jays 4, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Drew Hutchison won his first start in almost two years and Adam Lind homered for the visiting Blue Jays.

Hutchison (1-0) allowed three hits and walked three over 5 1-3 shutout innings in his first big league game since June 15, 2012. The right-hander had elbow ligament replacement surgery in August 2012.

Lind hit a three-run homer in the first off Alex Cobb (0-1). He sent a 3-1 pitch over the center-field fence.

Cobb gave up four runs, five hits and four walks in five innings.

Jonathan Diaz, filling in for injured Toronto shortstop Jose Reyes, made it 4-0 with his first major league hit, an RBI single in the fourth.

Rangers 3, Phillies 2

In Arlington, Texas, Adrian Beltre singled home Shin-Soo Choo with the winning run in the ninth inning as the Rangers saved a run on a successful replay challenge.

Choo, who also scored the tying run in the seventh, reached base for the fourth time on a walk to start the ninth against Mario Hollands (0-1), who was making his major league debut.

After Elvis Andrus' sacrifice and a walk to Prince Fielder, Phillies manager Ryne Sandberg went to right-hander B.J. Rosenberg. Beltre then singled, scoring Choo without a throw.

New Texas closer Joakim Soria (1-0) got the win with a perfect ninth inning in his season debut.

The first replay review of the series was a successful challenge by Rangers manager Ron Washington and helped keep a run off the board in Philadelphia's two-run sixth inning.

Mariners 8, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Brad Miller hit two homers and Erasmo Ramirez pitched seven innings of six-hit ball as Seattle beat Los Angeles again.

Justin Smoak hit a three-run double, while Abraham Almonte and Dustin Ackley also had RBI doubles as the Mariners followed up their 10-3 win on opening day with another surprising offensive barrage.

Seattle scored 16 runs in its first 15 innings of the year while beating Jered Weaver and C.J. Wilson, their AL West rivals' two best starters.

Wilson (0-1) labored into the sixth inning for the Angels, who are off to their first 0-2 start since 2001.

Ramirez (1-0) backed up his solid spring training, striking out six without walking a batter.

Final Four filled with good defensive teams

By JOHN MARSHALL
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Way back at the start of the season, amid all the whistles and fouls, the defensive-minded teams appeared to be in trouble, a seemingly dying breed hamstrung by the NCAA's new hands-free rules.

As the season progressed, the top coaches and teams adjusted to the changes and found ways around the impediments.

Now, after the all increases in scoring and shooting percentages and offensive flow, the season has come down to a Final Four of teams held together by one common thread: shutdown defenses.

"In general, it's like most sports: Defense wins championships," said Bill Frieder, a longtime coach and TV/radio analyst. "You still need to score, but basically when it gets right down to it, you have to make stops. The teams that can make a stop or two back to back are the teams that advance."

The Final Four teams in this wild ride of an NCAA tournament earned a trip to North Texas this weekend because they can do just that.

Florida is the best defensive team in the country, allowing just 88.5 points per 100 possessions, according to the analytics of KenPom.com. The Gators can be downright dominating on the defensive end, swarming ballhandlers and luring shooters into a fall sense of security before rising up to swat shots back in their faces.

Defense has been a cornerstone for Bo Ryan since he won four national championships at Division III Wisconsin-Platteville and it's been the calling card—along with that ultra-patient offense—since he arrived at Madison. The Badgers are fundamental and fierce, allowing about 56 points per game to NCAA opponents—nearly eight less than before the tournament.

For all the flash of Kentucky's fabulous freshmen, these young Cats can get after you on D. Kentucky's latest one-and-done lineup is filled with long, athletic players who can harass on the perimeter and guard the rim—10th nationally with 6.1 blocked shots per game—like few teams in college basketball.

And for all the hype heaped on Connecticut's Shabazz Napier, the Huskies are pretty husky when it comes to defense. Ryan Boatright has become a point-guard stopper—he had four steals and helped limit Michigan State's Keith Appling to two points in the East Regional final—and UConn seems to have an entire roster of rim protectors, ranking 16th nationally with 5.8 blocked shots per game.

"We are predators out there," UConn coach Kevin Ollie said.

In most years, the high-scoring teams often get the attention, whether it was Florida Gulf Coast's Dunk City a year ago or back to Houston's Phi Slamma Jamma of the early 1980s.

What usually happens at the finish? The best defensive teams end up with the hardware.

Louisville rode its swarming, chaos-inducing defense to a title last season.

The year before that, Anthony Davis and Kentucky's shot-swatting young Cats set an NCAA record with 335 blocked shots on their way to the national championship.

In 2011: Connecticut 53, Butler 41.

Great defensive teams litter the list of national champions throughout history, too.

UNLV ran its wrecking crew through the bracket in 1990. North Carolina State and Georgetown let the air out of Phi Slamma Jamma in consecutive title games. Indiana played superb team defense during the last perfect season in 1976. Lew Alcindor and Bill Walton anchored the UCLA teams that ran off 10 titles in 12 years.

Go all the way back to the 1950s and the San Francisco teams that won consecutive championships had a young Bill Russell dominating the middle before he went on to do the same thing for the Boston Celtics.

"In the NBA, it's always seems to come down to the teams that play the best defense and it's no different in college basketball," Arizona State associate head coach Eric Musselman said. "At the end of the day, no matter how well you score, you've got to be able stop people."

The Final Four teams have proven they can do it so far in the tournament.

Wisconsin opened the NCAA tournament by holding American to 35 points and reached the Final Four by preventing Arizona from getting off a potential game-winning shot before the buzzer sounded in overtime.

Kentucky held Kansas State to 49 points in its NCAA opener and held Michigan scoreless for nearly 4 1-2 minutes of a three-point Midwest Regional final win that sent the Wildcats to the Final Four for the third time in four seasons.

UConn went toe-to-toe with one of the nation's best defensive teams in the East Regional final, holding Michigan State to 39 percent shooting and two field goals - one at the buzzer after the game was decided—over the final 5 minutes.

Florida is the third team in NCAA tournament history to win four games by double digits and hold opponents under 70 points per game en route to the Final Four, limiting teams to an average of 55 points per game.

"We just take so much pride into being able to disrupt the team and being able to lock down guys," Florida forward Patric Young said.

So do the other three teams, a big reason why they're all together in North Texas.

Woods has back surgery, will miss the Masters

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

Tiger Woods chose surgery to heal his ailing back over a quest for another green jacket, announcing Tuesday that he will miss the Masters for the first time in his career.

Woods said on his website that he had surgery Monday in Utah for a pinched nerve that had been hurting him for several months, knowing the surgery would keep him from Augusta National next week for the first time since he was a senior in high school.

The No. 1 player in the world is a four-time Masters champion.

"After attempting to get ready for the Masters, and failing to make the necessary progress, I decided in consultation with my doctors to have this procedure done, Woods said. "I'd like to express my disappointment to the Augusta National membership, staff, volunteers and patrons that I will not be at the Masters.

"It's a week that's very special to me," he said. "It also looks like I'll be forced to miss several upcoming tournaments to focus on my rehabilitation and getting healthy."

The Masters gets the highest television ratings of any golf tournament, and Woods commands most of the attention, even though he last won a green jacket in 2005. He won his first Masters in 1997 when he set 20 records, from youngest Masters champion at 21 to his 12-shot margin of victory.

"I know Tiger has been working very hard to return to form, and as I have said many times, Tiger has a lot of years of good golf ahead of him," Jack Nicklaus said. "I hate to see him robbed of some of that time by injury. But we all know he is doing what is in the best interest of his health and future. I wish him well on a speedy recovery."

Nicklaus played 154 straight majors for which he was eligible until he missed the 1998 British Open because of an ailing left hip that he had replaced a year later. Nicklaus rarely had injury problems in compiling 18 professional majors, the record that Woods wants. Woods has been stuck on 14 majors for six years.

Woods has had four surgeries on his left knee, and now his biggest concern is his back.

He has been coping with back issues since last summer: a twinge in the final round of the PGA Championship and spasms in the final round of The Barclays that caused him to fall to his knees. Then, they returned with alarming regularity recently in Florida.

He withdrew after 13 holes in the final round of the Honda Classic with what he described as lower back pain and spasms. Woods shot the highest final round of his career at Doral a week later when he said his back flared up again in the final round. He skipped the Arnold Palmer Invitational, where he was the two-time defending champion, to rest his back and do everything possible to be at Augusta National next week.

"Tiger was gracious in keeping us updated of his condition and making us aware of his decision," Augusta National chairman Billy Payne said. "We wholeheartedly offered our best wishes for his immediate and long-term recovery."

Woods said he had a microdiscectomy for the pinched nerve, performed by neurosurgeon Charles Rich.

A microdiscectomy is a type of minimally invasive spine surgery to relieve pressure and pain caused by a herniated disc. Operating through a small incision in the lower back, surgeons remove small disc fragments that are pressing against spinal nerves.

Recovery can take several weeks and doctors typically advise against bending and twisting the back until patients are completely healed

"This is frustrating," Woods said. "But it's something my doctors advised me to do for my immediate and long-term health."

His website said repeating the motion of a golf swing can cause problems with a pinched nerve, and that the injury could have become worse if he had continued to play. Woods said he hopes to return to golf this summer, though he could not say when. It's possible he could at least start chipping and putting in three weeks.

He will have to wait until the U.S. Open - maybe longer - to resume his quest to match Nicklaus in the majors. Woods won his 14th major at the 2008 U.S. Open on a badly injured left leg that required season-ending surgery two days after his playoff win at Torrey Pines.

He has not won another major since then.

This would have been the 20th straight Masters for Woods, dating to 1995 when he tied for 41st as the U.S. Amateur champion. He missed the British Open and PGA Championship in 2008 after knee surgery, and the U.S. Open and British Open in 2011 to heal more injuries in his left leg.

But he never missed the Masters, even after the scandal in his personal life at the end of 2009. Woods had been out of golf for nearly five months dealing with a car crash into a fire hydrant, revelations of multiple extramarital affairs and 45 days in a Mississippi clinic when he returned to Augusta National under intense scrutiny. He tied for fourth.

Even though he hasn't won the Masters in nine years, he had only finished out of the top 10 one time, in 2012.

AP

In this April 13, 1997, file photo, Masters champion Tiger Woods receives his green jacket from the previous year's winner Nick Faldo, rear, at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga.

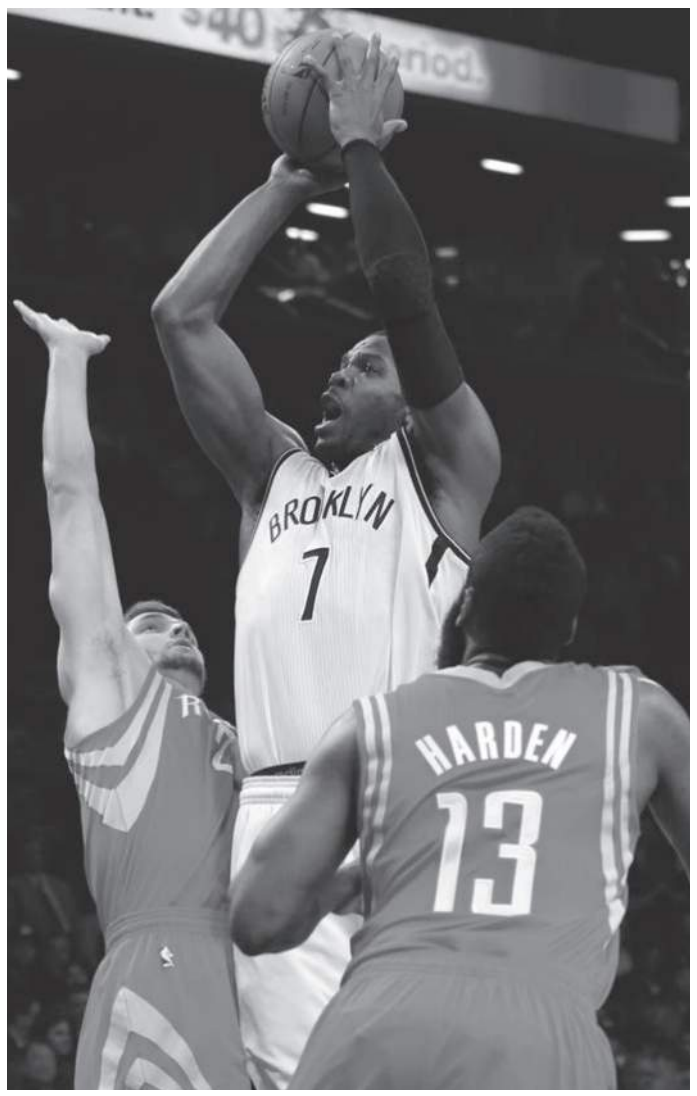
Nets end 14-game skid vs Rockets, clinch playoffs

NEW YORK (AP)— The Brooklyn Nets clinched a playoff berth by beating the Houston Rockets for the first time in eight years, getting 32 points from Joe Johnson in a 105-96 victory on Tuesday.

Shaun Livingston added 17 points for the Nets, who extended their home winning streak to 14 games, longest in their NBA history and tops in the league this season. They also pulled within 1½ games of Toronto and Chicago for the No. 3 seed in the Eastern Conference.

The Nets ended a 14-game skid against Houston with their first victory in the series since March 13, 2006. The Nets hadn't defeated the Rockets at home since March 31, 2003, when they were still playing in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

James Harden scored 26 points for Houston, which lost its second straight following a five-game winning streak. Still without Dwight Howard because of a sore left ankle, the Rockets shot just 38 percent from the field.



AP

Brooklyn Nets guard Joe Johnson (7) shoots over Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) and forward Chandler Parsons (25) during the first half of their NBA basketball game at the Barclays Center, Tuesday, April 1, 2014, in New York.

Warriors 122, Mavericks 120, OT

In Dallas, Stephen Curry made a tiebreaking jumper in the final second of overtime, lifting the Golden State to the win.

Curry finished with 23 points and 10 rebounds. Klay Thompson led Golden State with 27 points, and Jermaine O'Neal added 20.

Dallas had a three-point lead until Thompson made a 3-pointer with 1:01 remaining in regulation.

O'Neal blocked a Dallas shot with the game tied at 120, setting the stage for Curry's winning move. He dribbled the ball to the left side of the court and hit from 20 feet.

The Mavericks called timeout, but the inbounds pass failed to connect as time ran out.

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 33 points and 11 rebounds. He had 16 in the Mavericks' 41-point second quarter.

Dallas dropped from seventh in the Western Conference to ninth, a half-game behind Memphis and Phoenix in the final two playoff positions.

Trail blazers 124, Lakers 112

In Los Angeles, Damian Lillard scored 34 points, and LaMarcus Aldridge had 31 points and 15 rebounds as Portland overpowered Los Angeles.

The Blazers' fourth straight victory, coupled with Houston's loss at Brooklyn, moved Portland within 1½ games of the Rockets for fourth place in the Western Conference and home-court advantage in the opening round of the playoffs. The Rockets have three games in hand.

Nick Young, the fifth and last player off the Los Angeles bench, made his first eight shots and finished 15 for 26 with a season-high 40 points. But it wasn't enough to prevent the Lakers' 10th defeat in 14 games. They slipped to 25-49—the most losses by the club since finishing 33-49 in 1993-94. The franchise hasn't lost 50 games in a season since 1974-75 (30-52).

Ex-Eagles WR Jackson to sign with Redskins

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Washington Redskins made their biggest move yet of the offseason Tuesday night, adding three-time Pro Bowl receiver DeSean Jackson less than a week days after the dynamic playmaker was released by the rival Philadelphia Eagles.

Jackson's publicist tweeted that Jackson was signing with the Redskins following two days of meeting with coaches and officials.

Jackson also broadcast the news, tweeting: "ITS GOIN DOWN !! BURGUNDY & GOLD".

He arrived in the D.C. area Monday night and spent much of Tuesday at Redskins Park while his agent negotiated with the front office.

Jackson set career-highs with 82 catches for 1,332 yards last season for the NFC East champion Eagles, but Philadelphia tried to trade him and then cut him last week amid reports of off-the-field concerns. Jackson issued a statement denying he was associated with street gangs.

The Redskins, coming off a 3-13 season, had been looking for a versatile threat to add to an offense that includes Robert Griffin III, Pierre Garcon, Andre Roberts, Jordan Reed and Alfred Morris.

Jackson becomes the second player the Redskins have lured from an NFC East rival this offseason. Defensive lineman Jason Hatcher signed with Washington after eight seasons with the Dallas Cowboys.

Jackson's signing is the first headliner move since the hiring of coach Jay Gruden and since general manager Bruce Allen was put in charge of the roster, but it echoes a familiar pattern from past years under Redskins owner Dan Snyder: Go after the hot name and live with whatever baggage there might be. The strategy has often failed - Albert Haynesworth and Donovan McNabb are recent examples - but the 27-year-old Jackson is still in his prime.

Fruit hat-trick gives Paire win over Tan Holdings

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Paire rallied past Tan Holdings FC, 3-2, in the boys U15 division match in the 2014 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Anthony Fruit led the come-from-behind victory, as he recorded a hat-trick in the close win, posting all his goals in the second half.

The second frame started with Tan Holdings on top, 2-0, after Mareko Tekopua fired the first goal in the game in 22nd minute and Josh Galarion nailed the second one two minutes later. Tan Holdings kept the driver's seat in the first half, but lost it in the second when it failed to stop Fruit.

Fruit began his string of three goals in the 61st minute and got his second 10 minutes later before delivering the go-ahead in the 76th. Paire hung in there to steal the victory.

In the other boys U15 match last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, MP United clobbered Shirley's FC, 11-0. Sun Jun Tenorio anchored the demolition, tallying five goals.

Still at the Hopwood pitch, Renita Fleming and Guinevere Borja canned a pair of goals to lift Paire Football Club to a 4-1 win over Shirley's FC in the first girls U15 division game last Saturday afternoon.

Fleming hit her first goal in the 17th minute, while Borja also scored in the first half (25th minute) for Paire's 2-0 lead. A shot from Diana Maniacop in the 36th minute helped Shirley's stay afloat in the first 45 minutes of play. However, Paire put the game away with two more seconds in the second half with Borja getting her second in the 58th and Fleming duplicating the latter's feat 11 minutes later.

Two other matches in the girls U15 division took place last weekend with Tan Holdings routing Kanoa FC, 8-1, and Matansa and MP United having a draw, 1-1.

Krizel Mae Tuazon powered Tan Holdings to the easy win with her four goals, while Chloe Salvosa chipped in three. Catherine Joy Barroza logged the other goal for Tan Holdings, while Starmana Francisco was the lone scorer for Kanoa FC.

In the Matansa-MP United tussle, the former lit up the scoreboard early off Lyka Sally's goal right into the third minute of the game. However, Matansa failed to keep the shaky lead and was force to settle for a draw when Gillian Villagomez drilled the equalizer in the 80th minute.

In the morning games at the Hopwood pitch, Paire FC and MP United notched separate wins.

Paire topped Matansa FC, 4-2. Ryu Tanzawa had a pair of goals for Paire, which drew one goal apiece from Mason Fruit and Ethan Dickinson. Kenneth Mafnas logged both goals in Matansa's losing cause.

Tanapon Unsa also had twin goals to lead MP United to the shutout win over Tan Holdings FC.

QQ caging meeting Saturday, opening Sunday

Organizers of the 2014 QQ Rent A Car Basketball League is calling all representatives of participating teams to attend a meeting this Saturday, April 5, 6pm at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The league will start this Sunday, April 6, 5pm at the Garapan outdoor court.

Organizer Boy Garcia said a total of eight teams have signed up for the competitiom. Cash prizes await the Top 2 finishers in the league with the champion taking home $1,000 and the runner-up getting $500.

For more information, contact Garcia at 989-6386 or via email at bfgarcia2355@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

ENFORCERS

From Page 28

dal's strong game from the mound was his partner, catcher Kier Agda, who was 3-for-4 at bat and recorded three RBIs and two runs.

Secharmidal got three early strikeouts at the top of the first with his back-to-back Ks preventing leadoff batter D.J. Yumul from moving from third to home plate and stranding Brandon Pua at second. Secharmidal also gave JPO its first run at the bottom of the first off an Ethan Babauta RBI walk, while the Enforcers nailed three more runs in that frame off two passed balls and another RBI walk.

It was still an all Enforcers show in the last five innings, as they drilled six more runs to secure the early win via 10-run mercy rule. The Jets failed to gain even a single run against the steady pitching of Secharmidal, who earned at least one strikeout in each of the last five innings. The Enforcers' most impressive performance came in the second inning when he stranded three Jets runners after getting his second strikeout and catching a fly ball to end the inning.

Fielders 6, Red Sox 5

In the second Junior League game, the Fielders rallied past the Red Sox.

Down at 3-5 after four and a half innings, the Fielders scored three runs at the bottom fifth to steal the lead and shut down the Red Sox in the last two innings to take the victory.

Kimo Angailen, Jaden Tenorio, and Donavin Ada hit RBI singles each at the bottom of the fifth inning to help the Fielders grab the upper hand from the Red Sox. The Red Sox earlier notched four runs at the top of the third and added one in the fifth to go ahead against the Fielders, who had one run in the second and two in the fourth.

After relinquishing the driver's seat, the Red Sox had a chance to force a deadlock, with runners on first and second and only one out, but the Fielders made a double play at first and third base to frustrate their foes. The Red Sox earned another opportunity to either tie the match or reclaim the lead at the top of the seventh with runners on second and third, but Ada recorded three straight strikeouts to lift he Fielders to the close win.

Falcons 7, Comets 4

In the curtain-raiser, the Falcons outclassed the Comets.

Behind at 3-4 after five and a half innings, the Falcons assumed control at the bottom sixth after collecting four runs. Pitcher Kekuni Kainoa blasted a two-run single, while the two other runs came off the Falcons' miscues to gain enough cushion against the Comets, going into the last inning. The last frame saw the Falcons recording back-to-back put-out plays and stranding two runners to end the match. The Falcons also earned the first out via a put-out play.

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

14-year-old Yanai shaved more than three seconds from his old mark (2:36:55/March 23, 2013) after tallying 2:32.61.

Kaito's younger brother, Ryuto, got his second record in the 9 to 10 age group. His 1:07.91 in the 100m freestyle swim surpassed the 1:08.35 Kento Akimaru of SSC logged on Nov. 6, 2011. Ryuto first made it to the 9 to 10 age group record book on May 24, 2013 with his 3:03.63 in the 200m butterfly.

In the girls U8 division, two Tsunami Saipan swimmers made it on the elite list for the first time. Watanabe timed in at 1:51.11 in the 100m breaststroke to shatter the 14-year mark of SSC's Amanda Johnson, who posted 2:00.13 on March 31, 2000. In the 100m butterfly, Dangol's 1.58.06 is considered as the first official entry.

In the girls 11 to 12, Tammy earned two new marks and reset one. Her 35.34 seconds in the 50m backstroke erased the 35.92 seconds of fellow Tsunami Saipan swimmer Angel Marie Tan logged on Nov. 19, 2011. Another of Tan's marks fell when Tammy registered 2:45.47 seconds in the 200m backstroke against the former's 2:53.96 (Dec. 3, 2011). In the 50m butterfly, Tammy submitted 32.54 seconds, which was better than her previous mark of 33.50 (May 25, 2013).

In the 17 to 18 age group, Kimura reset his two marks and broke one and at the same time posted two CNMI national records. In the 800m freestyle, the 17-year-old timed in at 9:27.80 to beat the 9:29.53 he recorded on May 25, 2013. In the 50m backstroke, the 2013 NMASA/TSL Foundation Athlete of the Year tallied 29.13 seconds, which are both considered age group and CNMI national marks. Kai Staal held the previous 17 to 18 division and CNMI national records with his 29.50 seconds set on April 16, 2011. Kimura also reset age group and CNMI national marks in the 100m backstroke after logging 1:02.75, which is better than his old record (1:03.62) made on Nov. 5, 2013.

ALLEN

From Page 28

and Guam legs of the XTERRA Asia Triple Crown and will also be aiming for his own three-peat this weekend.

Despite losing to Hugo in XTERRA Philippines and missing XTERRA Guam, Allen believes he has momentum going after prevailing in X-Adventure in Australia and in last Sunday's XTERRA Great Ocean Road, also in the Land Down Under.

"I am coming off two back-to-back wins, claiming dominating performances in the biggest off-road triathlon race in Australia, the X-Adventure on March 23 and winning XTERRA Great Ocean Road last weekend. I feel confident in my training and I have been looking forward to racing in XTERRA Saipan since last year. It's a great all round race with the challenging climbs, technical descents, and very hot and humid weather. It's everything an endurance athlete is looking for and more…" the Wollongong, New South Wales native said.

Allen completed last year's 1.5-kilometer swim, 3K bike, and 12K run race in 2:36:36, making it to the finish line about eight minutes ahead of Hugo, who debuted in XTERRA Saipan and struggled a bit in the run and bike course.

Considering his familiarity with the course, the Australian triathlete hopes it will help him pull off another win against Hugo and other pros.

"This is our third year on the tour now and we are more experienced and wiser about what it takes to be in best condition for the race. All the athletes are in the same situation as us. We have raced this race for three years now and are fully aware of what's to come," Allen said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	42	32	.568	–
x-Brooklyn	40	33	.548	1½
New York	32	43	.427	10½
Boston	23	51	.311	19
Philadelphia	16	58	.216	26

Southeast Division

y-Miami	51	22	.699	–
Washington	38	36	.514	13½
Charlotte	36	38	.486	15½
Atlanta	32	41	.438	19
Orlando	21	53	.284	30½

Central Division

y-Indiana	52	23	.693	–
x-Chicago	42	32	.568	9½
Cleveland	30	45	.400	22
Detroit	27	47	.365	24½
Milwaukee	14	60	.189	37½

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	58	16	.784	–
Houston	49	24	.671	8½
Memphis	44	30	.595	14
Dallas	44	31	.587	14½
New Orleans	32	42	.432	26

Northwest Division

x-Oklahoma City	54	19	.740	–
Portland	49	27	.645	6½
Minnesota	36	37	.493	18
Denver	32	42	.432	22½
Utah	23	52	.307	32

Pacific Division

x-L.A. Clippers	53	22	.707	–
Golden State	46	28	.622	6½
Phoenix	44	30	.595	8½
Sacramento	26	48	.351	26½
L.A. Lakers	25	49	.338	27½

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	72	756	629	2317	32.2
Anthony, NYK	71	700	425	1985	28.0
James, MIA	69	680	378	1839	26.7
Love, MIN	69	583	464	1800	26.1
Harden, HOU	64	488	471	1603	25.0
Griffin, LAC	74	666	435	1778	24.0
Curry, GOL	70	574	284	1662	23.7
Aldridge, POR	63	593	274	1463	23.2
DeRozan, TOR	71	549	464	1621	22.8
Cousins, SAC	63	501	389	1391	22.1
George, IND	74	537	367	1608	21.7
Jefferson, CHA	64	608	160	1379	21.5
Nowitzki, DAL	72	557	317	1541	21.4
Davis, NOR	63	505	331	1343	21.3
Irving, CLE	64	487	263	1354	21.2
Lillard, POR	75	513	344	1569	20.9
Thomas, SAC	70	488	345	1447	20.7
Dragic, PHX	70	512	294	1435	20.5
Wall, WAS	73	531	297	1463	20.0
Gay, SAC	67	495	290	1340	20.0

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Jordan, LAC	309	462	.669
Drummond, DET	413	665	.621
Howard, HOU	458	776	.590
James, MIA	680	1194	.570
Johnson, TOR	334	595	.561
Stoudemire, NYK	275	501	.549
Faried, DEN	369	674	.547
Lopez, POR	321	587	.547
Wade, MIA	395	724	.546
Jones, HOU	332	612	.542

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Jordan, LAC	74	298	717	1015	13.7
Drummond, DET	72	372	544	916	12.7
Love, MIN	69	202	664	866	12.6
Howard, HOU	68	226	613	839	12.3
Cousins, SAC	63	198	535	733	11.6
Noah, CHI	71	250	540	790	11.1
Aldridge, POR	63	150	547	697	11.1
Vucevic, ORL	56	181	438	619	11.1
Jefferson, CHA	64	126	541	667	10.4
Davis, NOR	63	205	446	651	10.3

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, LAC	55	602	10.9
Lawson, DEN	59	522	8.8
Wall, WAS	73	637	8.7
Rubio, MIN	72	617	8.6
Curry, GOL	70	588	8.4
Jennings, DET	71	549	7.7
Lowry, TOR	73	556	7.6
Nelson, ORL	63	435	6.9
Teague, ATL	69	471	6.8
James, MIA	69	444	6.4

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	1	0	1.000	–
Tampa Bay	1	1	.500	½
Toronto	1	1	.500	½
Boston	0	1	.000	1
New York	0	1	.000	1

Central Division

Chicago	1	0	1.000	–
Cleveland	1	0	1.000	–
Detroit	1	0	1.000	–
Kansas City	0	1	.000	1
Minnesota	0	1	.000	1

West Division

Seattle	2	0	1.000	–
Houston	1	0	1.000	½
Texas	1	1	.500	1
Oakland	0	1	.000	1½
Los Angeles	0	2	.000	2

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division

Miami	2	0	1.000	–
Washington	1	0	1.000	½
Atlanta	1	1	.500	1
Philadelphia	1	1	.500	1
New York	0	1	.000	1½

Central Division

Pittsburgh	1	0	1.000	–
St. Louis	1	0	1.000	–
Milwaukee	1	1	.500	½
Chicago	0	1	.000	1
Cincinnati	0	1	.000	1

West Division

Los Angeles	3	1	.750	–
San Diego	1	1	.500	1
San Francisco	1	1	.500	1
Arizona	1	3	.250	2
Colorado	0	2	.000	2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2014 PIC Tennis Championships

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jeff Race and Luke Beling exchange hi-gives after scoring a point.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO.

Luke Beling hits a return from the corner.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tommy Choi makes a return from the baseline during his and teammate Amami Sakano's men's open doubles title game against Jeff Race and Luke Beling in the 2014 PIC Tennis Championships held last month at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ken Imaya serves during his and Reo Arriola's men's 4.0 doubles title match against Daniel Park and Jake Lee.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Daniel Park makes a strong serve.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dennis Tababa waits for a shot from Randy Steele.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Randy Steele gets ready for a shot from the corner during his men's 3.0 singles title game against Dennis Tababa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tournament director Dennis Tababa, center front row, poses with mixed open doubles finalists Luke Beling and Mikayla Lopez and Carol and Dong Min Lee.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mikayla Lopez, left, and Negahr Rastguiy, get ready for the next play during their women's open doubles championship match against Carol Lee and Thea Minor.

Puig hits 410-foot homer in LA's 3-2 win vs Padres

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Woods has back surgery, will miss the Masters

PAGE 25

Enforcers clinch Junior League pennant

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The JPO Enforcers bagged the pennant in the Junior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball after beating the Jets, 10-0, last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The weekend match was the Enforcers' last in the regular season and they finished the double-round robin tournament with a field-best 11-1 record to clinch the pennant. The Jets fell to a 4-8 record, while standings of the four other teams (Comets, Falcons, Fielders, and Red Sox) have yet to be finalized as a couple of make-up games are still scheduled this week.

Virgil Secharmidal pitched in no relief for the Enforcers and allowed only four hits. He walked only three, had one hit by pitch, and 11 strikeouts. The ace pitcher was also perfect at the plate, going 4-for-4 and and scoring four runs and one double.

Complimenting Secharmi-

See ENFORCERS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Enforcers' Virgil Secharmidal delivers a pitch to the Comets during an earlier game in the Junior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball late last month at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Allen likes his chances for 3-peat in XTERRA Saipan

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Pro triathletes Ben Allen, right, and Jacqui Slack, third from left, pose with their hosts Steve and Kimiko McKagan and dog Hanako for a group photo at the finish line of last year's XTERRA Saipan Championship at the American Memorial Park.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Australian pro Ben Allen is back on island and is confident with his chances in this Saturday's XTERRA Saipan Championship.

"My chances are good. I've been training very well. I'm ready for the race this Saturday and I love being back on the island of Saipan," said Allen, who arrived on Saipan with fellow pro and girlfriend Jacqui Slack last Tuesday. "I feel at home with Kimi, Steve (McKagan) and Hanako on Saipan, my second home. They are amazing people and both Jacqui and I love coming back and seeing our Saipan family."

The 28-year-old triathlete won XTERRA Saipan in back-to-back fashion, beating former champion and Olympian Olivier Marceau in 2012 and former XTERRA World champion Dan Hugo of South Africa last year. Allen will be gunning for his third straight XTERRA Saipan crown against Hugo, who won the Philippine

See ALLEN on Page 26

Tsunami Saipan sets 16 swim marks

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmers posted 16 records in the 2014 Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Meet held late last month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Kaito Yanai and Kensuke Kimura led Tsunami Saipan's record-breaking performances in the two-day tournament, as they earned five swim marks each. Nanaka Watanabe, Ashley Dangol, Ryuto Yanai, and Miku Tammy also set records in their respective age groups.

Kaito raced in the 13 to 14 division and had record swims in the 50m backstroke, 50m, 100m, and 200m breaststroke, and 200 individual medley. His 31.98 seconds in the 50m backstroke eclipsed the 32.25 seconds Kimura logged on Feb. 4, 2011, while the latter's 200m IM record (2.25.69) was scrapped from the list when Kaito submitted 2:23.62 in last month's meet.

In the three breaststroke events, Kaito crushed his own records. His 33.30 seconds in the 50m breaststroke was about two seconds faster than the 35.04 he registered on March 23, 2013. In the 100m breaststroke, Kaito chopped off more than two seconds from his previous mark (1:13.55) recorded on Nov. 5, 2013 after clocking in at 1:11.19 in the SSC-hosted competition. For the 200m breaststroke, the

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ashley Dangol, left, and Nanaka Watanabe pose for a photo at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool before starting their training session with Tsunami Saipan last week.